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The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | August 30, 2004 | Issue I

Best group of orientation leaders in 23 years makes for a successful year

By Emily Ransom
A&E Editor

The class of 2008 arrived to campus for orientation to be greeted by the 2004 orientation team June 18, 2004

Orientation leaders prepared early last spring for the thirteen- day program.

Four days of intensive training began before the students and parents arrived.

The 23 WSC orientation leaders were divided into teams of student, parent, and logistics.

Professional staff prepared the student leaders through role playing, discussions, lectures, and question and answer sessions.

"Before our [illegible] was a bit nervous but I felt ready," said student leader Tiffany Puliafico.

There were over 750 members of the class of 2008 and about 800 parents in attendance spanning the four sessions.

The sessions all went smoothly according to logistics cordinator, Thomas Amos. "We all did a lot to be ready but it proved worth it," he said.

In the course of the next nine days after training, there were four sessions, each two days.

This change from previous years meant that the staff had a half a day between each session to prepare and to rest before the next.

"As always, I was very impressed with the whole orientation staff," said Kathi Bradford, associate director of residentail life and director of orientation.

> **"These 23 students took time off their summer jobs to work 18 hour days. They gave the program their all and I couldn't have asked for anything more."**
> **Kathi Bradford**
> **Director of Orientation**

She continued to say, "These 23 students took time off their summer jobs to work 18 hour days. They gave the program their all, and I couldn't have asked for anything more, " said Bradford.

This year another change was the choice of evening activities for the students.

Instead of Brown Bag Bingo, there was karaoke.

The guest DJ chose three winners each night to compete in Westfield Idol durring welcome week.

The overall reaction after the program was completed from Bradford was one of praise. "In my 23 years at WSC, I have never worked with a better staff, they gave 110% with everything we did.

New President ready for Westfield State College

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Dr. Carwein is WSC's first female President, she has replaced Dr. Frederick W. Woodward.

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Westfield State College holds the distinction of being the first public co-educational school in the United States but since its inception in 1839 it has not had a female president, until Dr. Vikki Carwein.

"I don't see that making any pressure. I'm hoping that gender doesn't matter," said Carwein from her new office in 333.

Vikki Carwein was chosen to succeed former President Robert Woodward after last years exhaustive search, since being chosen she has wasted no time in acclimating herself to the campus and people of Westfield State College (WSC).

Before WCS hired her Carwein was the chancellor at the University or Washington Tacoma. Though her title was Chancellor her duties were the same as that of a President.

"It's been very busy for me," said Carwein weeks prior to student move-in. Over this past summer Carwein has met with community leaders from Westfield, legislators on the state level and faculty and staff.

She spoke with the Westfield Chamber of Commerce about how the city, "Would develop 'stuff' on the weekends to get students to stay put instead of leave on the weekends."

The University of Washington at Tacoma is a graduate school made up solely of commuters. Carwein said coming to Westfield will be a change and a challenge that she welcomes.

Carwein was impressed with Woodward's record at the school. "What I see today is the result of a lot of work from previous years," said Carwein about the shift in public perception of WSC

Carwein - Page 2

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

While you were away...
Construction continues full swing on the new dorm hall located between Courtney and Davis Halls. The new hall is scheduled to be done next fall.

WSC goes dramatic, LJ style

By Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

WSC has hit the two of the most popular (and most dramatic) sites on the web: LiveJournal and MySpace. Both are now featuring communities and profiles that are specifically targeted towards WSC students, alumni and faculty.

The LiveJournal community was started by incoming freshman Leah Kaplan and junior Jessica Ulmer. Their plan was to bring WSC students together outside of a classroom setting.

"I'd like to get more of the campus involved in this, since I know that a lot of people at WSC have LiveJournals," said Ulmer.

"This is the simplest way to get to know new people outside your social circles."

Kaplan originally began the community because she wanted to get to know some of the students.

"I didn't know very many people who were going to school with me," said Kaplan. "I live in a town in southwestern Connecticut, which is roughly two hours from school. I wanted to get to know some people so that when I got up here, I'd have a few names."

When Ulmer found out about the community, she became one of the moderators.

"Leah added me as a moderator because I know more about WSC and LiveJournal in general." said Ulmer.

The two had only known each other through the internet before teaming up the run the community.

"She had found me through LiveJournal because I list Westfield State College as an interest," said Ulmer. "She had a lot of questions about the school that I hope I was able to answer."

The community can be seen

Livejournal - Page 2

Looking for something to do?
Join "The Voice" staff.

General Interest Meeting
Wednesday, September 8
7:00 p.m. Ely C-248

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Preseaon Prep...

Freshman girls Krista Grifoni and Kristen Gorski were on campus early with other athletes for pre-season practice. Both are setters on the Volleyball team.

Inside

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Carwein

over the past ten years.

Carwein finished her undergraduate degree in Indiana and went to work at the Veteran's Association in California. She applied to a Master's program was an instructor of nursing at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. She said that's where she entered into the administration side of academia.

Out of the 5 candidates in the field the Board of Trustees? chose Carwein. "I assume part of the reason there was an interest in the President having a background in fundraising and advocating for our budget," she said. Carwein has already met members of the state legislature and even spent some time at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Carwein said about 70 percent of the school's student population comes from East of I-495 and has decided to focus on attracting students from other parts of Massachusetts. One way will be a bus tour of the state. Some faculty and staff members will be making stops at various parts across the state. One stop will be Westport, located in the southeastern part of Massachusetts. "This is one of the state's best kept secrets," she said.

Carwein was not aware of the Red Sox riots of last year and knew little of the Hockey scandal. She said both events were "very unfortunate" and, "every faculty member, staff member and student is a representative of WSC. I hope that individually and collectively we keep that in mind."

LJ

by anyone with a computer; there is no need to become a member of LiveJournal in order to view the site. If you want to become a member of the community and make posts and comments of your own, it is easy and free to become a member.

Kaplan and Ulmer hope to reach out to all students in order to keep them updated with upcoming events, professor and class information, and overall, to make friends with fellow students. The two both hope to expand, and possibly plan events off LiveJournal, but until then, they would like to add as many members as possible to the community.

The site can be found at www.livejournal.com/community/westfieldstate.

Along wth LiveJournal, there is also a member profile for WSC on MySpace, the website that proclaims itself "a place for friends". This site can also provide information on the school, as well as connections to many of the students. You can also view this site without signing up, however, you cannot be a "friend" unless you have a profile of your own. This site is also free to join. The member profile for WSC can be found at http://profiles.myspace.com/users/245986

From the Editors Desk

Welcome back students!

On behalf of The Voice staff, we hope that you all have a great first semester.

To the dismay of several students (and maybe even some faculty), I'm sure, I am now the co-editor-in-chief of The Voice, along with my counterpart. This year, we're looking to totally revamp the newspaper and make it interesting and inviting to potential staff members. We are looking for talented and enthusiastic writers, photographers and editors to help us make this paper better than ever. Now that we've had some management changes, we believe that joining the staff and even simply reading the paper are some enjoyable and informative things to do. Also, we promise, fewer spelling mistakes. Hopefulee. And don't you worry, my column won't be disappearing anytime soon. As for the frosh, a here's a little advice for you: One, drinking does not make you cool. Two, running around campus screaming inane catch phrases does not make you cool. And three, read the newspaper. THAT makes you cool.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Well, Emily and I have finally wrestled control of the paper from the forces of ineptitude. Damn, if I had known just how much running this paper was going to suck, I would have joined the Westfield State College Gaming Commission. At least they have a bigger room to meet in every week and a nice rug. Seeing as how this is a welcome back issue I should go on about how "important" it is to join some kind of club or how "enriching" it would be to get out and make new friends as freshman . . .

Join a club. Make some friends. There done, now on to important business such as reminding you, the incoming class to some newsworthy things so we, the Voice staff can report on it. Make sure it's exciting too because we are so sick of covering bake sales and the lack of parking on this campus. Wait, actually we have lots of parking now, so I guess it's just bake sales until about 100 of you decide to streak across campus to raise money for Michael Jackson's Legal Defense Fund, or whatever. One piece of advice I will give you that will come in handy is...be nice to the lunch ladies, they will be nice to you. And remember if you wanted decent food at college you should have gone to Johnson and Wales.

Matthew T. Bernat
also Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Important Places and Phone Numbers

ON CAMPUS

Admissions & Fin. Aid.....x5218
Athletics.....x5405
Bookstore.....x5657
Business Office.....x5255
Campus Voice.....x5431
Career Services.....x5206
Class Cancellation.....x5411
Computer Hotline.....x5463
CounselingCenter.....x5790
Dial-A-Menu.....x5423
Health Services.....x5415
Information Line.....x5440
Interfaith Center.....x5567
Intramurals.....x5424
Library.....x5231
Mailroom.....x5248
MassPIRG.....x5428
Minority Affairs.....x5391
Public Safety.....x5262
Registrar's Office.....x5240
Res.Life.....x5402
Service Window.....x5661
SGA.....x5429
SNEA.....x5481
Student Support Services.....x5462
Subway.....x5441
Taco Bell.....x5540
Tekoa Yearbook.....x5429
TV Studio.....x5750
Wellness Center.....x5500
WSKB.....x5427
Veteran's Affairs.....x5446
RD Davis Hall.....x5500
RD Scanlon Hall.....x5547
RD Lammers Hall.....x5533
RD Dickinson Hall.....x5518
RD Courtney Hall.....x5589
Athletics Director.....x5405
Campus Center Director.....x5442
Career Services Director.....x5206
CounselingServices Dir.....x5491
Health Services Director.....x5415
Public Safety Director.....x5262

OFF CAMPUS

Pizza Places

Davio's Pizza.....572-1300
Domino's.....562-4411
El Italia.....562-1974
Elm Pizza.....568-2020
Westfield Pizza.....562-7272
Family Pizza.....568-1580
Gigi's.....562-0887
Giovanni's.....568-1623
Liquori's in West Spfld...737-9690
Pizza Towne.....568-3940

Chinese Food

China Star.....568-9698
Golden Peacock.....533-8207
Panda House.....572-9816
Real China.....568-9991
Tung Shing Dragon.....572-4522

Restaurants

Applebee's.....564-0345
Barney's.....562-1251
Bickford's.....562-0777
D'Angelo.....562-1514
Foster House.....562-3809
Friendly's.....562-0625
Leo's Deli.....568-2586
Pasquale's.....562-5009
Piccolo's.....572-1433
Points East.....568-1315
Royal Restaurant.....568-6922
School Street Bistro.....562-8700
Woody's.....562-9663

Auto Body

Dan's Auto Body.....568-3064
Hillside Auto Body.....568-3944
Mr. Mike's.....562-1252
Michael's Frame & Collision Inc.....562-9373

Oil & Lube

Penske Auto Ctr.....568-9648
Transit Lube Inc.....568-6666

Lock Out Services

Gary's All Nt Towing.....568-2168

Auto Repair

AAMCO.....562-5268
At Your Service Auto Repair.....568-1994
Brake King.....572-1735
Brookside Auto.....562-1400
Pro Auto.....562-8242
Midas.....568-8621

Movies

Cinemark Theatres in Hadley.....413-587-4233
Showcase Cinemas in West Springfield.....413-733-5131

Resume Services

Westfield Business Service.....568-1705
Impact Resumes.....568-2356

Tips for the Frosh

"We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take us or spare us." - Marcel Proust, French Novelist (1871-1922)

I hate quotations. I especially hate starting anything I write with a quotation. However, this caught my eye and I think that while Monsieur Proust may have written this simple statement thinking of issues much larger than that of dorm life at state college, these words can be related to many various situations, and should be seen as an open door. With that I will leave you with the wisdom I have harvested after two years of campus life, but as the quote says, you must discover this wisdom for yourself, so I leave you with an open door…

For the love of God, please, go to your classes and do your homework! Especially while living on campus, it can become very easy to slack off. You will feel so much better going home on winter break and for the summer knowing that you worked hard and gave your all academically and you'll have a great GPA to show for everything you have done. Even if it requires you going in your pajamas and dragging ass to Wilson, just go. Professors love seeing you as much as you love seeing them at eight in the morning.

As well as going to classes, another place you should catch yourself is at the library. We have the absolute best library and reference staff that will always be willing to help you whether you are doing research, writing a paper, or anything! While working at the library I cannot tell you the number of seniors that come in during finals week who haven't the foggiest as how to do a blessed thing in the library, including use a computerized card catalog system. Hmmm…

Eat well and get plenty of sleep. I know I sound like a nagging mother saying this, but last year on top of having an extremely challenging class schedule, teaching hours, work, and money problems, I got bacterial pneumonia because I wasn't eating well or getting nearly as much sleep as my body needed. You don't need bacteria growing in your lungs kids, believe me.

While we are on the subject of food, I will now address the DC. Personally, I am not a huge fan of DC food at all. But instead of being like some and ditching it all together, find the kinds of food that you like and be sure to stick with them. It also might take a few weeks to get used to the "food" served. If you are vegan or vegetarian you can talk to the Sodexho brass at the DC and ask about arranging some sort of substitution.

Drinking is by far the most overrated activity on campus. While not being much of a drinker subjects me to prejudice on this issue, last time I checked getting unfathomably wasted was the most pathetic thing to witness and/or experience. In short, drinking in excess is stupid. And drinking in the dorms is lame, because you can't even open your door without having to throw every empty can and bottle you have under your bed and check your peep hole to make sure it isn't an ISO. Even when it is, you're up Poopy's Creek. Do people not have better things to be doing?

Keep it in your pants the first night! Come on people, do you really think that any worthwhile long lasting relationship is going to bloom from a drunken romp in the sack on the first night? Do your roommate(s) a huge favor and at least wait until the second night to make passionate love to the dude/dudette you met yesterday. For those in relationships, please disregard.

If I hear one more complaint about there being nothing to do on campus I will vomit all over their shoes. There are tons of activities, clubs, national honor societies and intramural groups put on by the school. Not to mention a number of activities put on by SGA. My personal favorite is "Brown Bag Bingo". A lot of really good activities are not even attended because no one on this campus wants to get out of their rooms.

Coming from personal experience, I know that making a small group of good friends is a huge plus to living on campus. My friends are the absolute best and I could never imagine being without them while living on campus. We are so elite that we even have our own designated area at the DC. Sorry to break the news to all of you anti-social kids but it's going to be impossible to go through college without making a multitude of awesome friends, whether you like it or not.

As freshmen, the upperclassmen are going to know exactly who you are. You're short, lost little souls who smell funny, bump into everyone and ask inane questions. We expect and embrace this about you. Don't ever be afraid to ask anyone anything while on campus, because the better informed you are about the little things on campus, the better.

Lastly, look out for a guy walking around campus wearing two different colored shoes and wearing a bathrobe. He's creepy.

David Pageau
is a Voice columnist

Voice of the Week

Barbara Hand

Role at WSC: Assists students with programming, clubs and helps SGA do what they need to do each year.

Number of Years at WSC: 14, I've been working here since 1990!

Favorite Thing at WSC: All the wonderful students I get to work with each year.

Least Favorite Thing at WSC: I still don't understand student apathy towards all the things that go on on campus.

Family: A husband, Ray and two children, Shaun, 22 and Katie, 20.

Favorite Movie: "When Harry Met Sally"

Favorite Kind of Music: Classical, the older the better!

Favorite TV Show: "West Wing"

Favorite Quote: "Less is more!"

Favorite Book: Jane Austin's "Pride and Prejudice"

What Would You Do If You Won $1 Million Dollars? I'd give it all away.

What Would You Like To See Happen At WSC This Year? I'm so excited about the student leaders and I'm looking forward to all the great work that will get done on campus.

-Compiled by Lisandra Billings

AUDITIONS
Open to All W.S.C. Students
Theater Arts Program's Fall Production
Bertolt Brecht's
Galileo
First Three Days of Classes:
WED., THURS., & TUES.
SEPTEMBER 1, 2 & 7
5:00-9:00-ELY THEATRE
Come any time etween these hours.
Readings will be from the script.
A synopsis of the play will be provided.

Theatre Arts Program's FALL 2004 MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 5:00-5:30PM ELY THEATRE

All WSC students interested in theatre are urged to attend.

PIZZA TOWNE
FULL DINNERS AVAILABLE For Your BUSINESS MEETING OR PARTY Call For Details
80 Main Street Westfield 568-3940
Two Baked Dinners with Salad, Bread & Butter $12.99
For Our Valued Customers $2 OFF Any $10 Purchase
Large 1 Topping Pizza Only $9.99
For Our Valued Customers $2 OFF Any $10 Purchase

The Back Page

Brown Bag Bingo

It's not just for grandmas anymore!

8/31 - Ely Main Lounge - 8pm

No Charge - Great Prizes

Woodward Center Dedication Ceremony

September 1, 2004
4:30 - 6:30pm

Short Building Tours will Follow the Ceremony

Like Planning Events?

Join the Campus Activities Board

Wednesdays at 5pm in SGA (Ely Basement)

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	30 10am - Halls Open for Returning Students 11:00am - FYE Community Service Fair - SBH. 8:00pm - Comedian - EML 9:30pm - Ice Cream Novelties	31 11am - Writing Placement Test 11:15-12:30 - Rec. Swim - Ely Pool 8:00pm - Brown Bag Bingo - EML 9:30pm - Pizza	1 Classes Begin Today! 9:00-4:00 - Add/Drop - SLR 4:30-6:30pm - Frederick W. Woodward Center Dedication 8:00pm - Dan LaRosa Hypnotist - DA	2 9a-4p Add/Drop - SLR 4:00-5:30 - National Student Exchange Reception - Lammers Hall 4:30 - Catholic Mass - INT 8:00pm - WSC Idol Finals - DA	3 9a-4p - Add/Drop - SLR 11:30a-1:20p - Rec. Swim - Ely Pool WSC Football v. Springfield - 6pm - Alumni Field	4 10am-7pm - Westfield Arts on The Green - Downtown Westfield 1pm - Women's Soccer v. Springfield - Alumni Field WSC Volleyball vs. Mt Holyoke - 1p - WOOD
5 4pm - Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A 4:30-8pm - Rec Swim - Ely Pool	6 No Classes Happy Labor Day 7pm - Monday Evening Jazz - EML	7 9a-4p - Add/Drop - SLR 5:30 - Student Government Meeting - SGA (Ely Basement)	8 *** 9a-4p Add/Drop - SLR 5p - C.A.B. Meeting - SGA 7pm - Voice Int. Meeting -Ely248	9 11:15-12:30 - Rec Swim - Ely Pool 7p - WSC v. American Int'l - Alumni Field	10 8:30-10:30am - Commuter Student Breakfast - Wilson Hall	11 1pm - WSC v. Mt. Holyoke - Alumni Field

Looking For Something Interesting to Do This Semester?

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We will be looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, photographers, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. for 2004-2005

Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments

No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

General Interest Meeting: Wed. Sept 8 - 7pm - In the Voice Office (Ely C-248)

TheVoice

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New President Vikki Carwein takes charge
pg. 1

'Voice' under new management meet the new editors
pg. 2

Photo by: Matthew Bernat

WSC joins LiveJournal and MySpace

LIVEJOURNAL

myspace
a place for friends

For the Frosh important phone numbers, things you wish you knew,
pg. 3

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | September 6, 2004 | Issue II

Crane collapses, investigation ensues

By Matthew Bernat and Bob McDonald
Voice Staff

Many residents in Davis Hall received an early wake up call on Wednesday, September 1, when the large crane being used to construct the new residence hall collapsed. The 130 foot crane fell at about 8:30 a.m. with the tip of the crane coming to rest 4 1/2 feet away from the residence hall.

No one was injured and the event is under investigation as of press time.

"We are awaiting the results of the investigation at this point before we make any kind of recommendations," said Jon Conlogue, Director of Residential Life.

Dr. Curt Robie, Assistant Vice President, Administration, could not be reached for comment.

News of the event spread quickly among students at first as a rumor that the crane had fallen at the Woodward Center. Residents going to and from Davis hall were directed around the back of the building by Residential Life and Public Safety staff members, as the fallen crane blocked the normal footpath to Davis' main entrance.

-Photo by Bob McDonald

The crane before being cleaned up. An investigation is under way to determine the cause of the fall.

A meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. to inform Davis Hall residents about the facts of the incident. A representative from Suffolk Construction was present to answer questions. "We felt it was important to address student concerns as soon as possible," said Conlogue.

The Davis Common room was standing room only when Emil Frei, Vice

Crane- Page 2

Revamped campus

By Bob McDonald
Associate Editor

Students returning to Westfield might notice a few of the many changes and improvements that occurred over the summer.

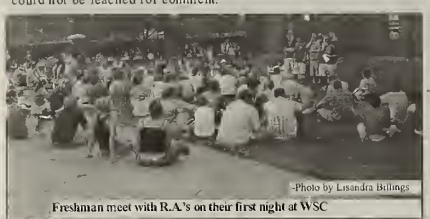
The most notable changes to the campus landscape involve the two newest buildings: the all-but-completed Woodward Center, and the new residence hall that is the mid stages of construction.

The Woodward Center officially opened on September 1, 2004.

Following the grand opening of that building, work will continue on the athletic storage building located between the Woodward Center and Alumni field. The new structure, which will include bathrooms, should help to alleviate the need for storage, according to Curt Robie, Assistant Vice President, Administration.

The new residence hall is slated for a Fall 2005 opening. Aside from the actually construction of the building, temporary walk ways and road ways had

Renovation- Page 10



-Photo by Lisandra Billings

Freshman meet with R.A.'s on their first night at WSC

Welcome, Freshmen

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

One thing is for sure, this years very enthusiastic class is going to make WSC a very interesting campus for the next four years. They began showing their energy as soon as programming began for Welcome Week.

Students arrived back to campus to be greeted by a flurry of Welcome week activities. Residential life with the help of the orientation leaders planned several evening activities.

Welcome week began Sunday night with

Welcome - Page 2

Half a million strong say no to the Bush agenda

By Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

Editorial

The heat was just about as intense as the feeling of excitement that day as the temperature seemed to reach close to ninety degrees in the city. The skyscrapers that surrounded us were much like doors on an oven, keeping all the heat centered. Every once in a while a cool breeze would rush through the crowd, which was closely followed by a wave of cheers that would run up the streets.

Four-hundred-thousand people lined the streets of New York City on August 29th in order to march against the Bush agenda and the Republican National Convention that was about to take place at Madison Square Garden. The parade started between 7th avenue at 14th and 22nd Avenue in Manhattan, over thirty-six square feet of city blocks.

The group United for Peace and Justice put on this monumental march.

Around 11 a.m., the subway I was on began to get more and more crowded as the train pulled closer to the upper west side of Manhattan. People climbing aboard carrying signs supporting Kerry and other random slogans, amongst tee-shirts with catchy phrases would acknowledge other to-be-marchers with a small smile and nod, as if to say "Yes, me too."

A couple of high school age girls stepped onto the subway all decked out with peace signs on their faces, as well as several piercings and bright, orange shirts that read slogans like "Bush + Dick = Screwed" and "He's not MY president!" They looked as if they were ready to march the whole distance: 14th street to Union Square.

The original destination of the march was Central Park, but after a court ruling, the marchers were told to end elsewhere. The UFPJ decided on Union Square as their alternative, seeing as though that was where so many New Yorkers gathered spontaneously after the September 11th attacks.

-Photo by Emily Engel

Protesters take it to the streets in New York City

Police were stationed at every subway stop, per order of the city. They seemed to be walking around aimlessly,

NYC- Page 3

Madame Inez
foretells your future

And it's not good
Page 9

Check out the new Woodward Center before you have to walk halfway to 333.

Pictorial
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Inside

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Crane

President of Educational and Institutional Division for Suffolk construction said the crane operator was lifting the crane into position without a load when it fell. "I wish I could tell you what happened won't happen again but I can't," said Frei.

Frei said it was either operator error or mechanical failure that caused the crane to collapse. The collapse of the crane is under inspection by Occupational Saftey Hazard Administration.?

Steve Allen another representative from Suffolk Construction said in his 38 years of working in construction this was the first time he had seen anything of that nature.

"We can't change what did happen, thankfully no one was hurt. We can think of ways to reduce risk," said Conlogue. Some ways Suffolk plams to do this might include closing off the walkway in front of Davis hall until all the steel girders have been put in place.

Frei said a hydraulic crane will be brought in soon.

Residents had a few questions for Frei. "Was the operator fired?" To which Frei answered if the investigation finds that the operator was at fault that would be, "the last crane he runs for anything."

Conlogue said Suffolk was chosen for the construction job because of their excellent safety record.

> **"I wish I could tell you what happened won't happen again, but I can't."**
>
> **Emil Frei**
> **Vice President**
> **Educational and**
> **Institutional Division**
> **Suffolk Construction**

From the Editors Desk

Cranes Away

If a crane falls in front of Davis hall at 8 a.m. in the morning does anybody hear? More importantly, does anyone care? The fallen crane could not have come at a worse time for the administration who were making final preparations on the Woodward Center ribbon cutting ceremony. Despite the stellar timing and enormity of the situation the crane was cleared from the sidewalks of Davis by 4 p.m. the Woodward Center Ceremoney went extremely well and now the residents of Davis have been offered first dibs in the new hall to be completed by next September. Well, actually Director of Residential Life Jon Conlogue said to the residents of Davis, "This construction in your front yard has been more than an inconvience and we would like to keep open some spots in the new dorm for students who wouldn't normally wouldn't have a chance to live there." But, he added that Res. Life hasn't "worked out the details." A nice gesture, let's hope it becomes a reality. So kudos to the administration residential life and the construction company for getting things on track.

Not to get all political on you, I know how much this campus loves all things politics, but we are in the midst of a Presidential campaighn. 'The Voice' would like to keep abreast of the issues and this week an editorial from Emily Engel is run on the front page. Emily went to the Republican National Convention in NYC to protest with half a million people. Though it is an editorial we feel the timeliness of the issue warranted front page coverage. In the coming weeks 'The Voice' will be running stories on Bob McDonald's and Tim MacDonald's trip to the Democratic National Convention (Coronation?) and Alex Trzasko's trip to the RNC if we get a hold of him.

Yet another desperate plea for people to join 'The Voice'. We're looking for people to join our staff, we need writers, photographers, copy editors, pretty much anything you want to do, we can arrange. Call x5431 leave a message on the machine or stop by the office at C-248.

Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Welcome

Dave Binder, a guitarist/comedian who san comedic songs about college and being a freshman before upper classman were on campus.

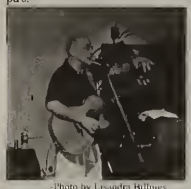


Photo by Lisandra Billings

Jimmy Buffet he's not, Dave Binder sings songs about Freshman

Dave Binder will be performing again on campus for Family Day on October 2, 2004 He performed and got the group of freshmen to dance the macaraena and sing along.

After the Dave Binder performance the students were served a pancake breakfast which brought droves of freshmen to the Ely Campus Center.

Monday night featured comedian Eric Nieves and an ice cream social. Eric Nieves is a comedian from the Bronx.

He graduated college in 1993 but WSC students found him to relate well to the student body.

Nieves said that he likes performing at state schools because he finds them to be a more open and a fun crowd.

Tuesday night was the first game of Brown Bag Bingo for WSC students. "Bingo went really well even though I didn't win anything," said freshman Lisa Wilkinson.

Vice President of Programming, Julie Swartwout, was impressed with the turnout even though freshmen did not play during orientation.

"Last year's success could be attributed to the many freshmen who became excited and brought their energy from orientation when they played then," said Swartwout.

Wednesday evening's activity was hypnotist Dan LaRosa and a palm reader in Dever auditorium.

Thursday the karaoke winners from orientation performed in Westfield Idol.

While the freshmen seemed impressed with the weeks activities, some said it would better if there were more activities.

"The activities have been really good, but after there's nothing to do. Everything ends by 10:00 and then you have to think of something else to do," said Wilkinson.

Most upper classman are surprised by how many students, particularly freshmen, attended this weeks activities, and by how enthusiastic the new class is.

"Overall, they seem like nice kids, very eager and friendly," commented Wilga.

One thing is for sure, the display of energy and enthusiastic class is sure to make WSC an interesting year.

-Photo by Lisandra Billings

Record crowds at the Brown Bag Bingo held on Tuesday August 31.

Need Experience? Internships for credit in a wide range of fields. Contact MASSPIRG or Water Watch @ 572-5428, or in Ely 234a. You must be hired

NYC

waiting for something to happen.

The crowd was filled with every race, age, religion and creed possible, each there for a different reason. Amongst them, a small family consisting of a mother, father and a blonde baby All three were residents of NYC.

"We're here because the government is supposed to represent the people, and they're not." The father sported a small tag saying "NYC to RNC: Welcome Evildoers."

Talking to the marchers deemed rather impossible. They seemed distrustful of a random girl asking for quotes and names. Most seemed more interested in those who had video cameras, hoping to end up on the next edition of The Daily Show or Fuse's "Electoral Dysfunction."

Chanting roared up and down throughout the crowd. Things like "Tell me what democracy looks like? This is what democracy looks like!" and "Racist, greedy, selfish, sexist, send that bastard back to Texas!" were heard, with hundreds yelling.

Throughout the crowd, several independent newspapers proclaiming to speak the truth gave out issues to whoever would take. The majority just walked on by without even acknowledging them. How very New York.

Police officers stood ready and waiting for some action. Many were seen smiling, yawning, laughing with each other and drinking soda slowly from bottles.

Six helicopters circled overhead to get shots of the filled streets. Many decided the best way to handle that was to give them half the peace sign.

A large group of right-wing representatives called the "Protest Warriors" stood their ground behind a barricade, holding signs that were too ironic to understand. Many thought they were communists due to what they said. Later, they ended up breaking into the marching line and holding up the works. Several sported black banadanas and began swinging at any oncoming marchers. Finally, the police had something to do.

"Six helicopters circled overhead to get shots of the filled streets. Many decided the best way to handle that was to give them half the peace sign."

Digital cameras, video cameras and even cameras in phones reigned supreme. This seemed to slow things down a bit, considering many stopped to snap pictures. One man made mention that this wouldn't have happened at a Vietnam protest; technology has forever changed the face of protests.

Whether or not these marchers got through to the visiting Republicans, but it is safe to say that this was indeed a great example of how protests should be. Peaceful, yet loud, large, yet controlled. New York City spoke that hazy afternoon, and even if the inhabitants at Madison Square didn't listen thoroughly, the rest of the world did catch a sound bite at what half a million people had to say.

Voice of the Week

Glen Brewster

Role at WSC: English Professor, Chair of the English Department

Number of Years at WSC: 8

Favorite Thing at WSC: Working with students in small groups

Favorite Movie: Apocalypse Now

Favorite TV Show: Red Sox Baseball games

Favorite Quote: "The road to excess leads to the palace of wisdom" – William Blake

Favorite Food: Sushi

Who would win in a fight, Steinbeck or Bukowski?: Steinbeck if the fight involves baseball bats. Bukowski if they have to use wine bottles or hand to hand combat.

–Compiled by Matthew Bernat

Thumbs Up:

Popsicles and ice cream sandwiches in the Dining Commons make up for the lack of air conditioning,now we just need to get slip'n'slides on the green.

Thumbs Down:

Brown Bag Bingo without Brown Bags is not Brown Bag Bingo. What's next, no shower curtains? We're waiting for C.A.B. to plan the next one.

Do You Want to be a Campus Tour Guide?

Admissions is looking to pay students to positively represent WSC

You DO NOT have to be a senior!
You DO NOT have to have work study!

Are you interested?
Call Emily Gibbings in admission office at x. 8535

Theatre Arts Program's FALL 2004 MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 5:00-5:30PM ELY THEATRE

All WSC students interested in theatre are urged to attend.

PIZZA TOWNE
80 Main Street Westfield 568-3940
Two Baked Dinners with Salad, Bread & Butter $12.99
For Our Valued Customers $2 OFF Any $10 Purchase
Large 1 Topping Pizza Only $9.99
For Our Valued Customers $2 OFF Any $10 Purchase
FULL DINNERS AVAILABLE For Your BUSINESS MEETING OR PARTY Call For Details

Voices Overheard

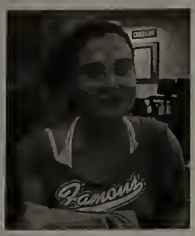
What is your first impression of Westfield?

Matt Rizoli
Class of 2008
Business

"I spend more time in Subway than my room."

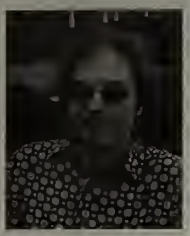
Dylan Kelleher
Class of 2008
Business

"Homey."



Mary Kate Gilrein
Class of 2008
Political Science

"I enjoy the freedom and I like how there's a lot of ways to get involved.."



Jeremy Boettcher
Class of 2006
Music Composition

"Its big and friendly."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

T's

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Website: www.degonscustomts.com

The Voice

Needs a new staff

Are you interested in....

Politics

Hard News

Music, Movie, Club and Concert

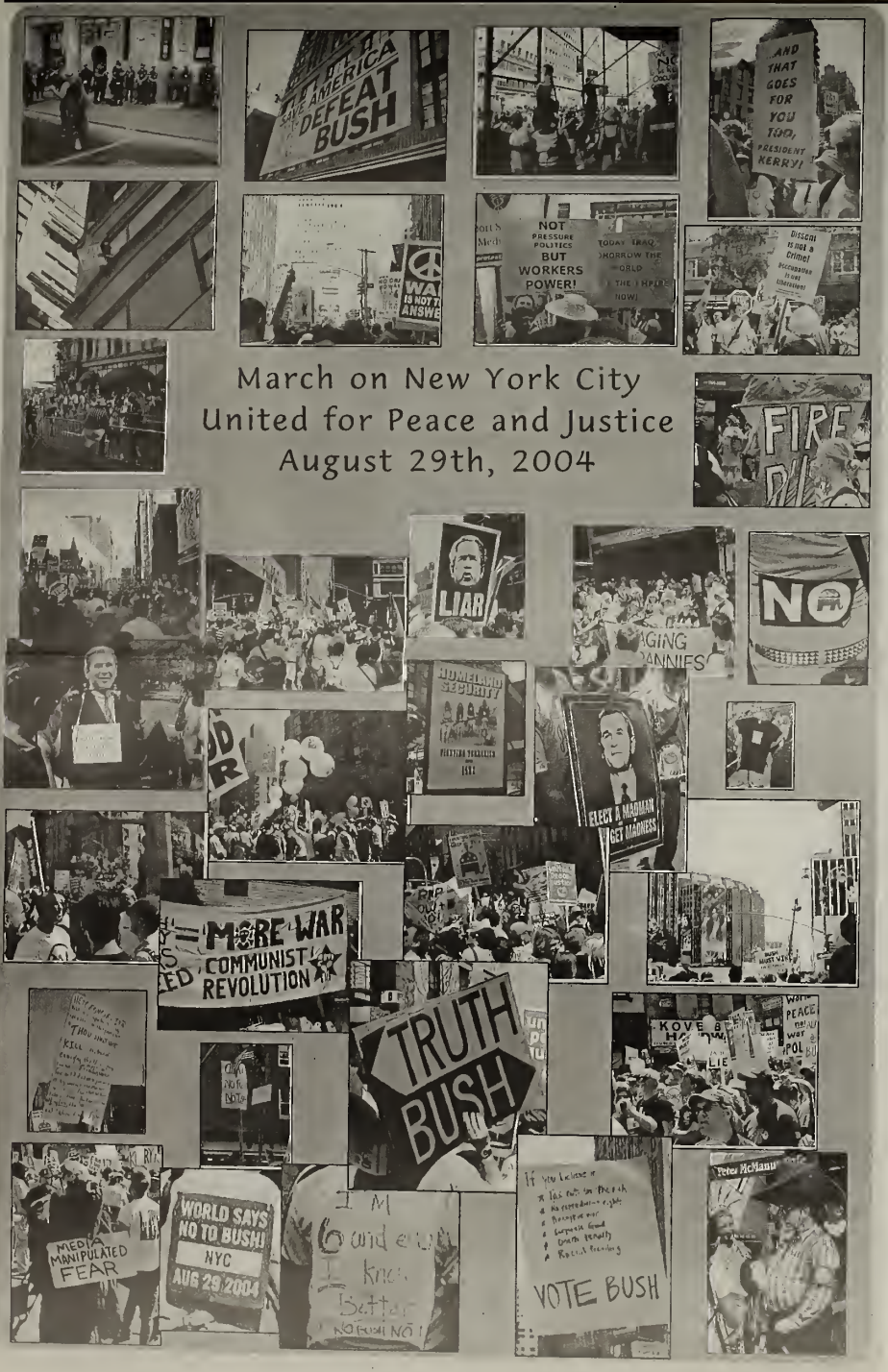
Photography

Get down to 'The Voice' office in Ely C - 248 on Wednesday September 8 at 6 p.m. for a General Interest meeting. No experience required. If you can read we want you there. All positions available, start padding that resume September 8.

Catch the Fever

Is Hiring

WE HAVE A POSITION OPEN FOR A BUSINESS MANAGER AND TWO OTHER POSITIONS. ALL THREE POSITIONS ARE WORK STUDY AND PAY FOR A 6 HOUR WORK WEEK. EXPERIENCE IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IT IS PREFERRED. BUSINESS MANAGER DUTIES INCLUDE; DEALING WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL BUSINESSES FOR ADVERTISEMENT REVENUE, ORGANIZE INVOICE SLIPS AND COLLECTING CHECKS. YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION. ANYONE INTERESTED MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 'THE VOICE' OFFICE X5431 OR STOP BY ELY C-248.



March on New York City
United for Peace and Justice
August 29th, 2004

Woodward Center opened with fanfare

Former President Woodward was hand for the dedication of the Center that bears his name

-Photo by Lisandra Billings

You're never too old to stop caring about your weight. These men weigh themselves in the new fitness room.

-Photo by Lisandra Billings

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

The new 'Woodward Center' ribbon cutting ceremonywas on September 1, 2004.

Before alumni and important members of the community and college the center was officially opened though it had been used by students prior to the start of classes for preseason practice.

Former President Frederick Woodward was the keynote speaker.

Woodward had come from upstate New York with his family.

"I am really proud of this new facility. It's a building that will be standing long after I'm gone," said Woodward.

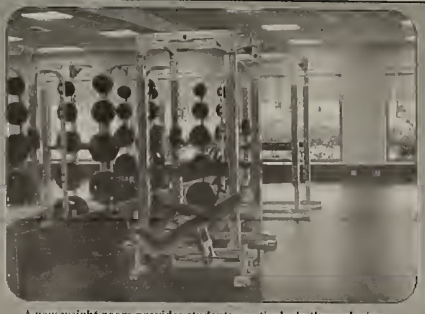
Center Facts:

Hours of operation: 7 a.m. 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.
Weekends: Open for sheduled practices, special events, and supervised recreation.

Shoe/Footwear Policy:
All users of the gymnasium, fitness room, dance studio, human performance labratories and atletic training room must bring a second pair of clean footwear for use during activity. Closed toed athletic footwear ir required at all times.

Anyone under 18 years of age who is not a Westfield State College student may use the facility only under the supervision of a parent, or as part of an organized community group. Coaches and supervisors of such groups may be required to complete an orientation program prior to bringing their group to the facilty. Conatct the Woodward Center Director's Office at 572-8221.

Trophy cases in the new Woodward Center display the many athletic achievments of WSC



A new weight room provides students, particularly those playing on a sports team, the opportunity for more training.

The Woodward Center provides something for everyone!

A new dance studio allows more room for dancing and areobics.

This banquet center provides space for students to sit, relax and eat during their busy schedules.

-Photos by Lisandra Billings

Arts & Entertainment

A Capella back in action with auditions

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

A Capella singers have become more and more vocal on campus. For the third year an a capella singing group named the Night Owls prepares for the beginning of the year.

Because this group is student run, it has a primary goal of a fun atmosphere. Junios Diana Farrell is the director and Danny Dicamillo is the manager.

There are auditions Tuesday September 7 and Wednesday September 8 at 9 p.m. in Bates hall room 8.

"It's a wonderful chance for talented people to get together and have a great time making fun music," said Farrell.

Farrell said, "We are in need of dedicated singers in all ranges and vocal percussionists who like to work hard and have a great time."

They are a performance group and also a credited class. They do not require the members to take the class for credit. The a capella singers are under the jurisdiction of the music department advised by Dr. Theodore Davidovich.

"We work hard to prepare for performances but we always make sure we have a lot of fun," said Dicamillo.

Farrell said the group would most likely rehearse Monday and Wednesday evenings around 9 p.m.,

"Night rehearsals led to the name Night Owls," said Farrell.

Last year's group consisted of about 20 members and Farrell explained the group will probably remain that size since it worked well.

"I am very excited to be involved once again and have a chance to bring some new faces and voices to the group," Dicamillo added.

Last year's success was marked by a performance at the end of the year that had an unexpected turnout. Dicamillo said the group got the word out but they were surprised when the audience filled Dever auditorium.

The group will continue to perform on and off campus. Farrell awaits upcoming auditions. They encourage anyone who auditions to bring a copy of their class schedule.

SEEN ON THE GREEN

Mike Fransen, class of 2008, sports his new electric scooter. He purchased the $200 folding scooter at Walmart and plans on riding it to classes.

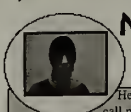
-photo by Lisandra Billings

GET REGISTERED!

The deadline in Massachusetts to register to vote is October 13!

Don't put it off any more. Come to Ely 234a or stop by any of the MASSPIRG tables around campus.

Horoscopes by Madame Inez



Hello dears...Allow me to introduce myself. They call me Madame Inez, and I have recently discovered that I possess the ALL POWERFUL SEEING EYE. Rather than waste such a gift, I will use my powers to benefit the students of WSC. Unfortunately, due to a pestering sinus infection, my ALL POWERFUL SEEING EYE, is rather dim this week, so instead here are some explanations of the sun signs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Symbolized by the ram, the Aries is a fire sign, which, quite frankly, is not a good thing. An Aries can be impatient, bold, impulsive, and stubborn and will often push away the people that care about them the most just to prove that they are right. Congratulations, because of you're nature, your going to be alone for the rest of your life.

TAURUS (April 20 - May20) - Symbolized by the bull, the Taurus is an earth sign with a love for anything of high quality. In short, Taurus' are arrogant, materialistic jerks whose love of money and good food leaves them fat and unattractive to the world. But don't worry, with all that money you have, you can definitely afford a prostitute!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Symbolized by the twins, the Gemini is an air sign and conveniently often an airhead. Do me a favor Gemini, try to imagine (and try not to hurt yourself by thinking to much...) someone ditzier and easier than you are. Most likely you can't. Gemini's are flirty idiots who will sleep with anyone because they just want everyone to like them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Symbolized by the crab, the Cancer is a water sign and I can almost guarantee that they have no friends. Reclusive and moody, the Cancer is that little kid in everyone's second grade class that dropped out and was home schooled the rest of their life because no one liked them. If you're a Cancer, I'd buy your little shack in the woods right now because you're unavoidably going to be the town hermit.

LEO (July 23-August 22) - Symbolized by the lion, the Leo is a fire sign, and most likely the person that everyone else hates. Characterized by their extremely vain and showy nature, Leos are materialistic and dramatic. Although they appear to have a lot of friends, everyone just uses the Leo for their wealth. There comes a time in every Leo's life when they wake up and realize that the mirror is their best friend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) - Symbolized by the virgin, the Virgo is an Earth sign and a nerd. Anal and particular, the Virgo is the person who always gets the good grades, was the teacher's pet and was most likely your high school's valedictorian. The Virgo also lacks any form of personality and will remain a virgin for the rest of their miserable, nerdy lives.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) - Symbolized by the scales, the Libra is an air sign and often lives in the shadows of the fire signs. They're the personal assistants of the world because they'll never be important enough to become anything more. The Libra will spend their entire life trying to reach the top, but never will. My advice is to give up and accept that you're a nobody.

Horoscopes- Page 9

The Voice

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Devil Wears Prada takes the Cake

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

Alert the media...it can be done. A "girlie" or "beach-read" book can actually satisfy the fluff needed for pleasure AND it can fulfill the need for a story that has a point.

"The Devil Wears Prada," by Lauren Weisberger, is a captivating read that has been gracing the conversations of readers and sitting on the tips of tongues of many readers just waiting for recommendations.

The talent of capturing and attaining the attention of a reader seeking a "girlie" book or a "beach read" is amazing. Weisberger is actually able to poetically depict every aspect of her story to preserve the attention of readers for the 350 pages.

The use of a clear, imaginable representation of every event is Weisberger's strongest facet. She, unlike some "beach read" authors, has a talented and very educated style of writing.

Weisberger writes a story about a 23 year-old Brown University graduate who works for the most demanding fashion editor in the business. This boss, or devil wearing Prada, makes the job "most girls would die for" practically unbearable for a college graduate with future hopes of writing for "The New Yorker" someday.

Weisberger's character Andrea shows a witty and cunning personality while she arranges meetings with fashionistas and glamour gurus. This blonde knockout has absolutely no interest in fashion and repeatedly wonders why everyone who knows her devil boss thinks so highly of her.

Andrea thinks surviving one year of torture will provide her with the recommendations needed to work anywhere she wants. The question becomes will she make it through the year?

This book has more substance than many fluff reads while still maintaining a fun feeling. It is worth reading, but not a book to keep next to the bed, for it will be hard to put down.

Themes of the real world, working up the corporate ladder, and the age between being a student and a mature adult provide a fully entertaining page-turner.

R.A.D.

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Residential Life and Dept. of Public Safety holding Women's Self Defense Classes

Thurs. Sept. 23, 2004
Tues. Sept. 29, 2004
Thurs. Sept. 30, 2004
Tues. Oct. 5, 2004
Thurs. Oct. 7, 2004

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Location T.B.A.

Interested? Have questions? Can commit to all 5 dates contact:
days-Jes Rich x. 5533
nights-Officer Jay Hastings x. 5262

if interested and can commit to all 5 dates class size limited to 16 so don't hesitate to call!

Horoscopes

SCORPIO (October 2 to November 21)- Symbolized by the scorpion, the Scorpio is a water sign and is most likely that emo kid down the hallway. Dark and mysterious, Scorpio's spend most of their lives crying and writing poems about how miserable their lives are. While some people take pity on Scorpios, most realize how clingy and whiny they are, and desert them. But hey, it will give the Scorpio something to write a song about...

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) - Symbolized by the archer, the Sagittarius is a fire sign and a royal pain the ass. Filled with curiosity, they're that annoying tourist who insists on taking a MILLION pictures of a fancy toilet seat in Paris. The Sagittarius will spend their entire lives trying to come up with the answers to life's most mysterious questions, but will realize right before they die that there are no answers. Way to waste your entire life.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)- Symbolized by the goat, the Capricorn is an earth sign and a big baby. Afraid of risks, the Capricorn will spend all their money on plastic couch coverings and cleaning supplies to satisfy their germ phobia. They will also go to great lengths to shelter their loved ones from the world, causing people to be bitter towards them and eventually kill them for being such freaks.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)- Symbolized by the water bearer, the Aquarius is an air sign and a rebel. Most likely a hippy democrat, the Aquarius will spend their entire lives devoted to "the cause." Unfortunately the Aquarius won't live very long because they're most likely to be trampled by a police horse during some pathetic freedom march.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)- Symbolized by the fish, the Pisces is a water sign and has absolutely no idea what they want to do with the rest of their life. Filled with doubts and insecurities the Pisces is never satisfied with anything. The Pisces will go through life laughing at the ignorance of the rest of the world until they get old and realize they can't retire because they've been unemployed most of their life and has no social security. Who's laughing now Pisces?

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Renovations

to be constructed to allow students and the Public Safety shuttle vans easier access to Davis. Work will continue on the building being at 7:00 a.m. on weekdays for the remainder of the semester.

The Ely Campus Center received a new electrical system over the summer, as well as an emergency generator, located behind the building. These improvements were necessary to facilitate the installation of a new centralized elevator. The new elevator, which will connect the 'Mass Comm' and 'Theater' wings of the building above the first floor, will be installed in the main lobby some time in the near future.

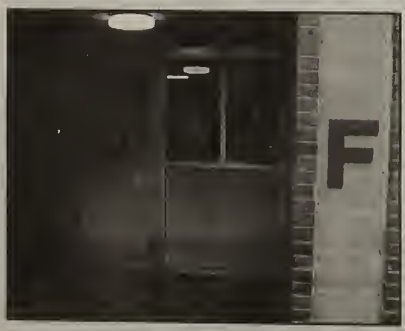
Installing the new electrical system was not without problems. During a one-week period, the building was more often than not without power, causing staff members to find non-computer related tasks to complete. On at least one occasion, staff members were sent home for safety reasons. "It was frustrating as a staff member," said Barbara Hand, the Student Government Secretary who works in Ely's basement, "but everyone understood that these things happen."

The Ely building will see one semester of relief before work begins again. Following the fall semester, a major renovation of Ely Main Lounge is planned. The Subway restaurant area will see what Mr. Robie, calls "a facelift." Concurrently, "The Nest" convenience store will be torn down and replaced with a coffee bar named Jazz Man's. The Nest will remain open until the last few weeks of the fall semester.

Over $2 million was spent on improvements to the residence halls during the summer months. Dickinson, Davis, and Lammers Halls all received new student room doors, which come equipped with security peep holes and door closers. Lammers Hall also had its trademark kitchenettes remodeled. In Courtney hall, all of the data lines were replaced. All of the entry doors to the residence halls have been replaced. And, as with any summer, major repainting was done to student bedrooms and commons rooms in all the halls.

Commuters will also be pleased to see several new picnic tables that will be installed in the grove between Wilson Hall and commuter parking within the next few weeks. Additionally, two new bus enclosures and an emergency phone will be installed in the South Lot parking facility within the next few weeks.

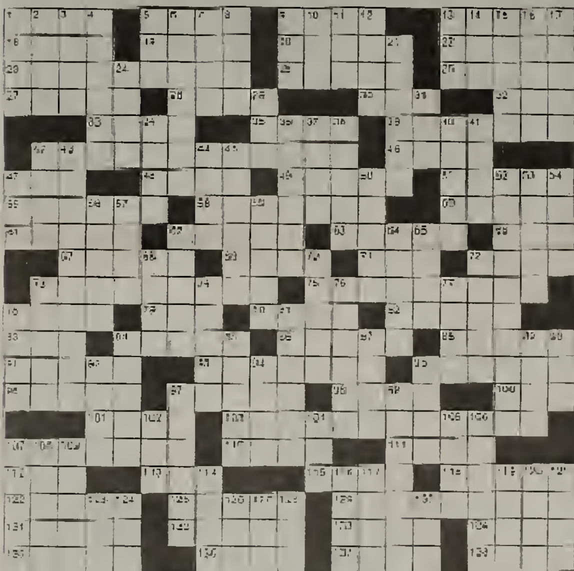
Criminal Justice students will be pleased to hear that a cement wall has replaced the mobile wall that separates classrooms 304 and 305. According to Curt Robie, several students had complained that they had a hard time differentiating between professors when they sat in the back of the rooms.



Clockwise from top left: The Woodward Center receives a last minute scrub to prepare for its grand opening; Shrubs surround a new emergency generator located between Ely and Lammers Hall; Residents of Lammers, Dickinson, and Davis Halls were greeted by new doors and door signs; One of the newly remodeled kitchenettes in Lammers Hall; The newly replaced entrance to F tower of Dickinson Hall.
Photos by Bob McDonald

ACROSS
1 Golf stroke
5 43,560 square feet
9 Live on lettuce
13 Word in a triangle
18 Lotion additive
19 Restaurateur Toots
20 "Teen —" ('60 smash)
22 Chou —
23 Minnesota city
25 Folklore figure
26 Japanese dog
27 Saint Catherine's home
28 Groucho's gaze
30 Shriver of tennis
32 "— Alfie" ('66 film)
33 The planes of Israel
35 James of Plaza
39 Connecticut city
42 Virginia city
46 Buffalo waterfront
47 Directional suffix
48 Owl's cry
49 — plexus
51 Familiar
55 "Bonanza" setting
58 Farm vehicle
60 Actress Berry
61 "— Guy"
62 Bellini opera
63 Sausage
66 Galileo's gadget
67 Tropical tree
69 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
71 Ewe said it
72 Stink
73 New York city
75 Kentucky city
78 Dorothy's dog
79 — Arts
80 Wingding
82 Condo scene
83 Yale
84 "— with Love" ('67 film)
86 Fernando or Lorenzo
88 Guitarist Eddy
91 "Hi, Ho!"
93 Gumat
95 — license
96 "Olympia" artist
97 Actress Adoree
98 Oenophile's mecca
100 Lennon's lady
101 Bible book
103 California city
107 New Jersey city
110 Or — (threat words)
111 Defeat by a knockout
112 Caspian city
113 Catchall abbr.
115 Landed
118 Dunning
122 Man of rare gifts?
125 "Roots" writer
129 Wisconsin city
131 Photo finish
132 Orphans' home
133 Petty cash fund
134 Marsh bird
135 Selling point
136 High time?
137 Playwright Coward
138 Org. founded in 1844

DOWN
1 Pinza or Chaliapin
2 Jai —
3 — gras
4 Parsley bit
5 Nile slitherer
6 Braided bread
7 Libertine
8 — Stanley Gardner
9 Mr. Hammarskjold
10 Hole
11 Self-esteem
12 Work for a while
13 Indeed
14 Calligraphy supply
15 Statesman Root
16 Procrastinator's word
17 Frank book
21 Head
24 Like Magic
29 CSA soldier
31 Damage
34 Sony competitor
36 Western Italian
37 Jogger's gait
38 Shining
40 It falls but never breaks
41 Composer Bartok
42 Small songbird
43 Entirely
44 Lorre role
45 Grief
47 Vane letters
50 Antilles isle
52 Engine part
53 February forecast
54 Pursue
56 Battle site of 1836
57 Freshwater fish
59 Between three
62 Letters
64 Durban dough
65 Behar
68 About
70 Black piano key
72 Trickster
73 La —, CA
74 Popeye's favorite shade?
76 Helen Hunt Jackson novel
77 [illegible] handle
78 Side
81 They're out of this world
84 Ryan's daughter
85 Saline solution
87 — League
89 Singer Simone
90 Word form for "environment"
92 Present
94 Harp —
95 Head top?
97 Boat
99 White oak
102 Menlo Park monogram
104 It's in the bag
105 Pipe part
106 A place with buzz?
107 It may give you pause
108 Nom de crime?
109 Goats and brass
114 First base man?
116 Spinks or Trotsky
117 Desdemona's enemy
119 Novelist O'Flaherty
120 Carmen or Clapton
121 Actress Ward
123 When Samuel [illegible]
124 Postal abbr.
126 — -tzu
127 Philips of "CHiPs"
128 Chinese principle
130 "Fantasia" frame



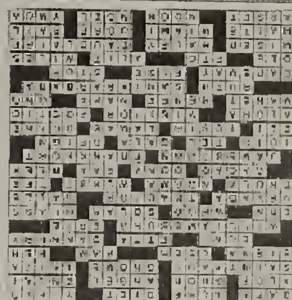
Steve Hofstetter's

Observational Humor

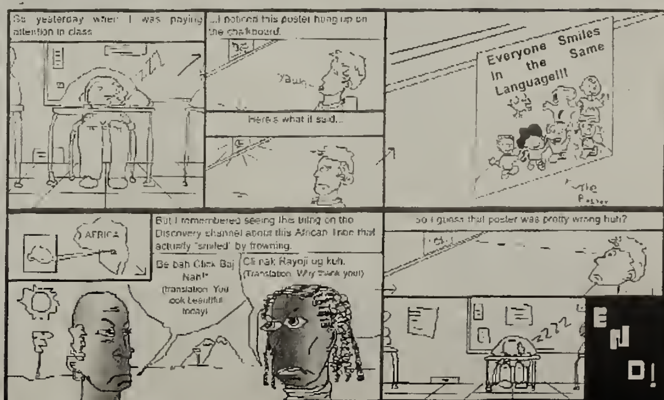
"The first week of school, your room is very neat, and you have a place for everything. By the end of the semester, you still have a place for everything - the floor."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:

www.collegehumor.com



True Story by: Nicholas H. Norton



The Back Page

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248 or email us at: theccampusvoice@hotmail.com

Commuter Student Breakfast

Friday Sept. 10.
8:30–10:30am
Taco Bell Area, Wilson Hall
Free To All Commuters
Come join us for free coffee, juice,

WSC Athletics This Week

Field Hockey v. WNEC - 9/7 @ 7p
M. Soccer @ Babson - 9/8 @ 4p
Field Hockey v. AIC - 9/9 @ 7p
Volleyball v. WNEC - 9/10 @ 5:30p
W. Soccer v. Mt. Holyoke - 9/11 @ 1
Cross Country @ Vassar Invt. - 9/11
Football @ WNEC - 9/11 @ 1p

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	6 No Classes Happy Labor Day Rec Swim Time Ely Pool 11:30a-1:20p & 6:30-9:45pm 7pm - Monday Evening Jazz - EML	7 9a-4p Add/Drop - SLR 11:15-12:30 – Rec Swim – Ely 4:30-5:30 – Catholic Mass 5:30 - Student Government Meeting - SGA (Ely Basement)	8 9a-4p Add/Drop - SLR 1130-120 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 5p - C.A.B. Meeting - SGA 7pm - Voice Int. Meeting - Ely248 (See Below)	9 11:15-12:30 - Ree Swim - Ely Pool 4:30 – Catholic Mass – INT 6:30-830 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 7p - WSC v. American Int'l - Alumni Field	10 8:30-10:30am - Commuter Student Breakfast - Wilson Hall 11:30-1:20 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool	11 1pm - WSC W. Soccer v. Mt. Holyoke - Alumni Field *The Voice Staff offers its most sincere condolences to all victims of terror.*
12 Noon & 4pm - Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A	13 11:30a-1:20p – Rec Swim Ely Pool 7pm - Monday Evening Jazz - EML	14 11:15-12:30 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 4:30p – Catholic Mass – INT 5:30pm – SGA Meeting – SGA	15 11:30-1:20 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 4:30p – Catholic Mass – INT 5:00pm – CAB Meeting – SGA	16 11:15a-12:30p – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 4:30p – Catholic Mass - INT	17 1130-120 – Rec Swim – Ely Pool 2pm – Fabulous Friday – Private Dining Room 11 – Brown Bag Bingo - EML	18 1-7 – CAB's Fun on the Green 8pm – Outdoor Movie 10pm – Unity Fest After Party – TWR

Looking For Something Interesting to Do This Semester?

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We will be looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, photographers, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. for 2004-2005
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!
General Interest Meeting: Wed. Sept 8 - 7pm - In the Voice Office (Ely C-248)

TheVoice

Volume X | September 6, 2004 | Issue II

Crane collapses in front of Davis Hall 'potential catastrophe' *pg. 1*

First Time? Freshman impressions of WSC *Voices Overheard pg. 4*

Photo by: Emily Engel

Woodward Center Dedication Ceremony *pg. 7*

Dissent in NYC Voice editor on the scene *pgs. 1 & 6*

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | September 20, 2004 | Issue III

Freshmen and Hall council elections to bring in new leadership

By Lissa Wilson
Voice Reporter

The Student Government Association has classified this week as Election Week. Elections for the Freshman Class Council will be held on September 21 and 22. Additionally, the Student Government Association has requested the the Residence Halls hold their Hall Council elections during the course of this week.

A class council is composed of ten positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, a historian (who gives briefings on what the class has accomplished) an activities coordinator, and four Representatives to Senate.

As of The Voice's deadline, several Presidential candidates, as well as candidates for other positions, had already submitted their signature papers. Candidates are required to gain twenty-five signatures from constituents in order to be placed on the ballot.

"SGA is a great way to get involved with your classmates," said Matt Curren, President of the Student Government Association. "Being a part of your student government is a fantastic way to take on a leadership position," said Curren. Bob McDonald, the Student Trustee, said, "SGA allows you to learn alot about the campus, but also about yourself in terms of leadership, responsibility, team work, and organization."

Being a member of your class council is a great way to have fun and at the same time a responsibility and priority. One of the important aspects of having a government position is participation in community service. It a way of showing the Westfield and Springfield community what WSC students have to offer. Serving the community gives recognition to WSC and its student body, as a student government member it is one of your largest responsibilities.

Campaigning is also a huge part of the election process. Posters and flyers are one of the best ways to get your name known around campus. Remember this is a freshman election so only freshmen can vote, placing campaign ads in freshmen residential sections is a good way to get known amongst your peers.

Every year each class receives $500 to use it as they wish. As a student government member it is part of your job to determine which is the most beneficial way to use this money. It may be used in a broad range of ways from movie nights to dances, if more money is needed for a class event then fundraising is a possibility.

If you are looking to get involved in your college community and looking to get to know more people then this is the position for you. Being a student government member is a sure way to always know what is going on around campus and never miss a beat. It gets you

Freshmen-Page 2

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Students gathered on the green Tuesday, September 15 to play flag football. The intramurals began two weeks ago.

Yo quiero Quixote's?

By Maggie Concannon
Voice Reporter

Those of you returning to the WSC campus this year may have noticed a change in the Wilson Commuter Café. What was once a Taco Bell Express is now a similar taco restaurant called Quixote's.

Speculation among WSC students was that the school had instigated the changeover from Taco Bell to Quixote's. Director of Food Services, Michael Maselek, said the decision was made by Taco Bell. According to Maselek, Taco Bell was nearing bankruptcy and decided to focus on their main restaurants, pulling out of many university campuses to save money.

The new Quixote's is run by Sodexho, the company responsible for serving food in the Westfield State College Dining Commons. According to the Sodexho website it is, "The leading food and facilities management services company in North America."

Maselek said Sodehxo's ownership of Quixote's means we can expect higher quality food. Whereas the school used to have to purchase their meats and ingredients through Taco Bell, they are now free to provide their own.

So can we expect any other changes on campus? Mr. Maselek said "yes." Mid-Septemher, Quixote's

Taco - Page 2

WSC student gets first hand look at Republican Convention

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

WSC's resident Republican Alex Trzasko attended the RNC in NYC

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

In one week's time Alex Trzasko was hassled on a NYC subway, got to rub elbows with big names in the national news media and had a close look at the political process. Now he's ready to revive the long defunct Republican Club at Westfield State College (WSC).

Trzasko, a History and Education major in his junior year at WSC, saw a lot of floor time at the Republican National Convention (RNC) which was held in New York City from August 30 to September 2.

He went with The Washington Center, a non-partisan program that sent 175 students and 12 professors from across the country to the RNC. Trzasko and the others did not receive a warm welcome from one RA at Pace University in NYC where the group was staying. Trzasko said "Signs had been put up saying 'Republicans go home' on all the dorm rooms. We've been around college campuses, we're used to it."

During the convention Trzasko worked for The Committee of Arrangements. "I was a hospitality volunteer, I worked out on the perimeter greeting delegates," said Trzasko. He also worked with the NYPD and the Secret Service. An important part of his job was to check the credentials of everyone entering Madison Square Garden and directing people on the inside to their proper seats.

Trzasko's job had certain perks. "I met Tucker Carlson, Bill O'Reilly, George Stephanopoulos, Ted Koppel, Tim Russert, the first President Bush was seated in my section. The list goes on," said Trzasko.

A highlight of the Convention for both Republican Party supporters and detractors was

RNC- Page 3

Campus groups get out the vote

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

On Thursday, September 30, Westfield State Rep. Don Humason, Amherst State Rep. Ellen Story, and Mix 93.1 FM will be visiting Westfield State College for a Rock-the-Vote-inspired voter registration rally.

Last year a rally to register students to vote was held on campus, but on a much smaller scale. With guest speakers Humason and Story, and the support of a professional radio station such as Mix 93.1, rally organizers have high expectations for success.

"Last year we had a

Vote-Page 3

Meet this years new columnists. Turn to pages 7-9 to see what they have to say.

Curious about the latest fall fashions? Check out our new fashion column "Red Carpet Fashion" on page 10.

Inside

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Nation/World	Page 5-6
Opinion	Page 7-9
A&E	Page 10-11
Comics	Page 15

Taco

will undergo a facelift so it no longer looks like a Taco Bell with a Quixote's banner in front.

For those of you fearing that the Subway located in the Ely Main Lounge might be leaving us too, you can breathe a sigh of relief. There will be no changes made in the Subway other than a facelift to take place this winter.

This appears to be the year of renovations. Also getting revamped is the Nest, located next to Subway in Ely. At some point this year the Nest will become Jazz Man's Café. Remodeling plans for the café call for it to open up into the Ely Main lounge (a plus for coffeehouses hosted by the Campus Activities Board). Jazz Man's will also have more desserts and pastry type foods available in addition to the coffee and smoothies that can presently be found at the Nest. Maselek says that the convenience store aspect of the Nest will no longer be a part of Jazz Man's Café.

The new dorm under construction near Davis hall, which is scheduled to open for Fall Semester 2005, will house a mini-mart if, all goes as planned, will be the main campus convenience store.

Do You Want to be a Campus Tour Guide?
Admissions is looking to pay students to positively represent WSC

You DO NOT have to be a senior!
You DO NOT have to have work study!

Are you interested?
Call Emily Gibbings in admission office at x. 8535

Voting

goal of registering 150 students. This year's is to get the entire campus to vote," said rally organizer Jess Castro.

Castro also added that although students can't be made to vote, the goal of the rally is to enable all of Westfield State's students to at least have the option to vote.

"Whether they vote or not is up to them, but we would like to have them registered," said Jess Castro.

Representative Humason and Representative Story's presence, as a republican and a democrat, respectively, will help to create a non-partisan atmosphere and ensure that both sides are equally included in the event.

"They [Humason and Story] were so willing to come, too. Within ten minutes they were so willing to be there, which is really good for us," said Castro.

There will also be a screening of the first press debate between presidential candidates President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry at 8 p.m.

In addition to the presence of the guest speakers radio station, and debate screening, this year's rally will also include free raffle tickets for every student who registers to vote, and free t-shirt giveaways for the first 100 people to register. There will also be free pizza served from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Even students who are already registered to vote are welcomed to attend the rally and pledge to vote in the upcoming election.

"It is open to everyone and we do want everyone to go, because everyone will have something to do," said Castro.

Students who pledge to vote will also be given raffle tickets. The prizes for the raffle include gift certificates for local restaurants and an undisclosed event.

A table for student voter registration is scheduled for Family day on October 2 for any student who has missed the rally but still wishes to register. Voter pledge cards will be available at Homecoming.

Campus groups and clubs that helped to put together this event include the Political Science Club; Pi Sigma Alta, the Political Science Honors Society; Student Government; Mass PIRG; L.A.S.E; and the campus chapter of The

Thumbs Up:

The delectable waffle sundaes in DC really brought a little piece of joy to our day. The hot fudge, whipcream, strawberries and walnuts really hit the spot. MMM...thanks again, Sodexho.

Thumbs Down:

Way to go to the anonymous puker in Scanlon Hall this past Thursday at 10:00 p.m.. The puke spanned the hallway forcing it to be shut down for some time. Hey Pukie, if it was illness, 'The Voice' sends it's condolences, if your Thirsty Thursday got out of hand, worship the porcelain god like everybody else.

From the Editors Desk

After attending a brief meeting last Monday involving The Voice staff, our wonderful advisors, Professors George Layng and Glen Brewster, Daryl Hendery, Executive Director of Student Affairs, Barbara Hand, advisor to SGA and Vice President of Student Affairs Arthur Jackson, it has come to our attention that the last issue of The Voice was perhaps a "bit much" for our valued readers. Dr. Jackson explained to us, in simplest terms, that the image of an African American woman holding a sign stating her opinion while smiling might scare away potential WSC students and their money hoarding parents. He... I mean, we, want the best possible image for WSC, don't we? Afterall, I based my decision on which college to attend solely on the newspaper, didn't you? And gee, we all know that some bad PR might send our college right into the 9th circle of Hell. You want really some bad PR? I've got a GREAT idea! Why don't we publish a picture of some of the true residents of WSC, the ones that throw up in bathroom sinks, again on the stairs and then in their own beds after a night of heavy drinkin'? I'd say THAT truth is a lot more hurtful than a protester in NYC.

So, on behalf of the entire Voice staff, I'd just like to say ... Sorry to the administrators who would prefer to have something light and fluffy to show parents, but it ain't happening anytime soon. We have a great staff this semester, and no one's opinion will be overlooked or rejected by the editors, no matter what political background they come from, or how controversial the writing may be. That's what gets the students, you know, the ones that actually care about and read the newspaper, to do just that.

But don't just take my word for it. Let's hear from some other students on the Westfield State LiveJournal community when notified about this incident:

"I personally liked the cover. It's what caught my attention."

"I enjoyed the cover.. put a smile on my face which is a pretty great thing these days.. and honestly... what's the point of stating your opinion if other sensitive people are just going to be offended? Freedom of speech for a reason, everyones allowed to say their piece..."

"I loved the article, and actually found myself wishing I had gone to that protest. I found it beautifully written and well photographed. The fact that the WSC could get a bad rep is stupid. Shouldn't what the students think matter more?"

"You should have read Jackson the first amendment and left the room."

"I didn't find the front page offensive at all - that's what drew me to pick up the paper, actually."

And there you have it.

Perhaps the rest of you could e-mail Dr. Jackson and tell him what you thought of the cover. It seemed as though he was not fully aware of what the students thought of that particular issue. His e-mail address is ajackson@wsc.ma..edu. I'm sure he'd love to hear from you. And of course, as always, we would also.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

Freshmen

involved with so many new people and is a great learning experience. Getting to know your classmates, hearing and listening to what they have to say can only improve the relationship between you and your colleagues. Once again all are encouraged to take some part in the election whether it is running for a position or simply voting, remember, every voice counts! Voting is to be held in various locations on Tuesday, September 21 and Wednesday, September 22 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Wilson Hall, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Ely Campus Center, and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Dining Commons. Good luck to all our candidates!

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

A friendly skate boarder from Westfield State performs a trick outside of the Parenzo gym on Tuesday, September 15.

RNC

Senator Zell Miller's keynote address. Miller is a Democrat from Georgia whose speech was praised by the GOP and lambasted by major news outlets as mean-spirited and a blunder for the Republicans.

During Miller's speech Trzasko was working on the tenth floor of Madison Square Garden. The floor is a narrow corridor that runs around the top of the Garden and houses mostly soundproof suites. "You could hear that someone was speaking but it was muffled. I did not hear applause anywhere near as loud as I did for Sen. Miller," said Trzasko. "The applause for him seemed to rock the Garden." To Trzasko the applause for Miller sounded louder and more enthusiastic than the ovation Vice President Cheney had received.

Just the Facts: Alex Trzasko

Favorite Political Book *Letters to a Young Conservative* by Dinesh D'Souza

Favorite Political Movie: The Candidate

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite T.V. Show: Seinfeld

Who would win in a fight; John Kerry or George Bush?
-"Bush because Kerry's hair would get in the way."

Just a dozen years before hand Miller had delivered a speech at the Democratic National Convention to nominate former President Clinton that was critical of the first President Bush.

During the convention the protests going on outside of the convention walls were on the minds of those involved inside. On Sunday, August 29, a day before the start of the official convention, Voice Editor Emily Engel was in New York to join the protestors.

Trzasko noticed the increase of New York City police officers on the streets the week of the convention. "It made you a feel a lot better to see them there," he said. "Before I went down everyone was asking me, 'are you afraid of terrorists?'. The first week we were concerned about it but by the second week terrorism had just gone out of our mind, the only thing we were worried about were the protestors," said Trzasko.

"It's a little disheartening at first but for me all these protests and vulgarities just make me stronger in my beliefs. They didn't deter any of us at all, it just strengthened our resolve," said Trzasko.

> **"It's a little disheartening at first but for me all these protests and vulgarities just make me stronger in my beliefs."**
>
> **Alex Trzasko**

Trzasko and the other Washington Center participants had to wear a red white and blue lanyard that identified them as part of the Washington Center along with a green polo shirt. "The Washington Center made it point to tell us that once the convention comes do not wear your lanyard and keep as low a profile as possible," said Trzasko. He was also warned not to go outside on Sunday.

It was on either the Tuesday or Wednesday of the convention that Trzasko found himself on the subway with one other male student and three female ones heading back from a morning lecture. The group was wearing the red white and blue lanyards that identified them as being with The Washington Center. "Nothing identified us as Republicans or Democrats," said Trzasko when a man with a briefcase stepped onto the subway.

"He put his things down and said, 'I better stand over here' then went into a tirade against President Bush," said Trzasko. The man then pulled out a sheet of statistics and began to read them aloud. At one point a member of Trzasko's group began chanting "four more years" and got other subway riders to join in against the man who only read louder until he got to the point where, "he became incoherent," said Trzasko.

"The finest aspect of politics is an educated and thoughtful debate of the issues. People see screaming madmen, it hurts the process," said Trzasko. "Sometimes these protestors end up hurting themselves more than they end up helping themselves."

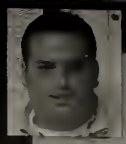
Now that he's back on campus Trzasko plans on starting a Republican club. He's already gone to the Student Government Association and discovered that it wouldn't be the first club of its kind at WSC. Trzasko is aware that college campuses tend to have liberal atmospheres. "Finding a faculty advisor is proving to be a daunting task," said Trzasko.

He first came to WSC in the fall of 2002 and was surprised at the lack of political clubs on campus. "It takes time to find anyone who cares, it's a-political here but I've seen a decent number of strong Republicans on campus, there are more to be identified. There are some Democrats on campus who don't know they are," said Trzasko.

He hopes to have a table at the club fair for this upcoming Thursday. "It doesn't concern us if there are 5 or 500 of us were still going to do it."

"One of the reasons I keep my mouth shut, you might be worried if you say something they don't agree with you don't know what they'll do to you (the professors). I haven't found one yet who has penalized me for my beliefs. I had that concern coming in, it was unfounded," said Trzasko.

Voice of the Week



Matt Curren

Role at WSC: President of the Student Government Association.

Number of Years at WSC: Third year at Westfield as a student, Matt is a junior.

Favorite Thing About WSC: The number of opportunities that students have to get involved with the campus.

Favorite Movie: The Rocky Collections

Favorite T.V. Show: Playmakers on ESPN

Favorite Quote: "There is no higher honor than human service, to work for the common good is the greatest deed." – Author Unknown

Favorite Food: Swordfish

Compiled by: Lissa Wilson

-Photo by Abby Tierney

Faculty members enjoy fun, sun and brewskies at the barbeque last Friday.

Class of 2005!
Come join us at the official Senior Ceremony!
Thursday September 23, 5 PM Scanlon Banquet Hall
FREE DINNER!
Please dress in semi-formal attire

Voices Overheard

How do you think the New Woodward Center will benefit WSC?

Seth Clark
Class of 2007
Music Education

"I hope because everything is new, it will create greater student involement in sports."

Joe Bertulli
Class of 2008
Business Management

"Easier access to the field, it's a nice facility."

Jen Raymond
Class of 2008
Criminal Justice

"Going to provide better services for student athletes to condition themselves."

Sarah Peters
Class of 2007
English

"I think it will be great come winter when all the sports teams have to get ready."

Voices Overheard compiled by Allison St. Clair and Lissa Wilson Ed. note: Due to a technical error this week's V.O. pictures were lost.

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College Students Sought to Work Polls on Election Day

BY DEBORAH BARFIELD BERRY
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON -- With less than 50 days until Nov. 2, and faced with a critical shortage of trained poll workers, federal and state election officials plan to expand the pool by turning to college students.

The federal Elections Assistance Commission will award $750,000 in grants this month to universities, faith-based organizations and nonpartisan groups aimed at recruiting college students as paid poll workers.

"In many ways, it's always been a pressing issue ... but there are so many changes going on," said Ray Martinez, a commissioner. "We want to have people who are trained properly and we want to have enough poll workers."

At least 2 million poll workers and judges are needed for the upcoming election compared with 1.4 million in 2000, say federal election officials.

To help fill the gap, officials hope to recruit workers through corporate volunteer programs and colleges. The workers will staff nearly 200,000 polling places, with as many as three to four workers at each site.

"It happens throughout the country that there are not people who are volunteering," Rebecca Vigil-Giron, president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, said at a commission hearing this week.

Election officials have long struggled to get enough poll workers, but say they are more pressed this year to have a trained work force because voters in several states will cast ballots on high-tech machines and face new rules under the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

The law, which was passed in the wake of the 2000 election controversies, was created to improve election systems.

The average age of a poll worker is 70, say election officials. Many are undereducated and unemployed. While older poll workers have been reliable, election officials say they could use younger workers less intimidated by new technology, such as electronic voting machines.

"It's crucial that we work now to identify a new pool of poll workers with a sufficient educational background and knowledge of computers and technology," said Vigil-Giron, who also serves as New Mexico's secretary of state.

But state and federal election officials acknowledge the challenge of recruiting young adults. Polls show that young adults are less likely to vote and get involved in politics. "We think if we can get more college students working at the polls, we can get more college students going to the polls," said DeForest Soaries Jr., commission chairman.

A survey of colleges released this week by Harvard University's Institute of Politics and The Chronicle of Higher Education found that political activities are happening on campuses, but that many colleges are not complying with the federal higher education law requiring voter registration efforts.

Martinez said the effort to recruit college poll workers was slow to get under way because the agency has been struggling to get federal funding and staff.

Still, he said, the commission is confident the groups can recruit enough students to help.

Bush AIDS plan gets drugs to 25,000 in Third World

BY DAVID BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--The Bush administration's global AIDS plan has helped put at least 25,000 people on antiretroviral therapy since it began disbursing money in February to organizations and governments in 15 targeted countries.

That estimate is contained in an interim report delivered to two congressional committees last week. It covers only nine countries. An accounting for all 15 countries will be available late this fall.

"We are moving incredibly rapidly. To support 25,000 people in such a short period of time is virtually unheard of," said Mark R. Oybul, an AIDS researcher at the National Institutes of Health who is now the chief medical officer of the Bush AIDS program.

> "We are moving incredibly rapidly. To support 25,000 people in such a short period of time is virtually unheard of."
>
> Mark R. Dybul
> AIDS Researcher

The head of the program, retired drug company executive Randall L. Tobias, said that "despite all the obstructions of getting something like this up and running ... there is every reason to believe that we are on target to meet the goals that we have laid out."

Putting people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) is not the only goal of the five-year, $15 billion global AIDS program, but it has the highest profile. The next target is to have 200,000 people receiving AIDS drugs by June 2005.

The new report said the Bush plan is directly paying for antiretrovirals for 18,800 people and is indirectly supporting ART for an additional 6,100 through contributions to AIOS programs. The 15 countries include Haiti, Guyana, Vietnam and 12 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dybul said manpower and expertise, not the cost of drugs, are the main impediments to getting people on ART.

"Capacity is unquestionably the limiting step," he said, adding that the Bush plan is helping to pay for training programs at 150 sites.

Over the five years of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the program aims to treat 2 million people with ART, prevent 7 million new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections, and provide care for 10 million AIDS orphans and infected people who do not need ART.

Although some federal agencies, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are directly providing services, most of the money flows through universities, charities and nongovernmental organizations.

At the recent 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, officials of the World Health Organization estimated that by the end of June, 440,000 people were on ART in the developing world.

Some of the 25,000 newly treated people claimed by the Bush plan are among the 440,000 in the WHO estimates, but the amount of overlap is uncertain.

In December, WHO committed itself to helping the world's poor countries treat their AIDS patients with the same drugs that have transformed care in the United States and other wealthy nations. It set a goal of getting 3 million people on ART by the end of 2005--the number chosen as roughly half the number of AIDS patients in the developing world who need treatment immediately to stay alive.

Worldwide, about 45 million people are infected with HIV.

WHO's next target in this "3 by 5" initiative is 700,000 on ART by the end of December. WHO does not treat patients itself or pay for treatment but provides advisers, training programs and treatment guidelines.

Much of the money for the new treatment of AIDS patients in poor countries is coming from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The two-year-old organization gets money from donor countries and foundations and distributes it to programs it judges capable of performing.

Rap Homing in on Hall of Fame

BY GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, whose social-message music in the early 1980s earned rap early critical respect, are now the first rap act to make it onto the final ballot of nominees for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

DJ Grandmaster Flash (the Barbados-born Joseph Saddler) and his crew made the final ballot in their first year of eligibility, as did U2, the Irish quartet whose two-decade run of commercial and critical successes has made them arguably the top rock act in the world for that time frame.

Other finalists this year include the Sex Pistols, the seminal punk outfit that has been passed over by the Hall voters in recent years; the Pretenders; Randy Newman; Buddy Guy; the J. Geils Band; Percy Sledge; Conway Twitty and Wanda Jackson. Artists are eligible for consideration 25 years after the release of their first recording.

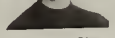
Cowell sued by 'Idol' Creator

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- Simon Fuller, the creator of "American Idol," is suing one of the show's hosts, Simon Cowell, over a new talent show in England that Fuller says is a rip-off of the original, the Hollywood Reporter said.

Fuller accuses the producers of "The X Factor," who include Cowell, of infringing on the copyright of "Idol." The new show features a panel of judges passing judgment on aspiring actors.

Freemantle Media, which produces "The X Factor," issued a statement on behalf of itself and Cowell denying the charge.



Simon Cowell is being sued by "American Idol" creator, Simon Fuller.

-File Photo

Notebook: A Celebrity Poll

BY DANA MILBANK
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--In last week's Washington Post-ABC News Poll, Sen. John Kerry was viewed favorably by 36 percent of registered voters, down 18 points over the past six months. But just how low Kerry's standing has fallen cannot be appreciated fully without comparing his standing with that of other household names in Gallup polls over the years. Kerry finds himself in a dead heat with Martha Stewart, and behind Herbert Hoover--although he beats O.J. Simpson.

Michael Jordan: 83 (2000)

Tony Blair: 76 (2003)

Pope John Paul II: 73 (2003)

Democratic Party: 54 (2004)

John Ashcroft: 49 (2003)

Michael Dukakis: 47 (1988)

Prince Charles: 45 (2003)

Herbert Hoover: 43 (1944)

Jesse Jackson: 38 (2003)

Vladimir Putin: 38 (2003)

John Kerry: 36 (2004)

Martha Stewart: 36 (2004)

Joseph McCarthy: 35 (1954)

Rush Limbaugh: 34 (2003)

Pete Rose: 34 (2004)

O.J. Simpson: 29 (1995)

Osama bin Laden: 1 (2001)

U.S. Fears Terroism via Mexico's Time-Tested Routes

BY RICHARD B. SCHMITT
H.G. REZA
RICHARD BOUDREAUX

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN DIEGO -- Growing fears that al-Qaida emissaries are looking to tap into well-worn smuggling routes along the 2,000-mile Mexican border have led to a security crackdown in recent months as well as new levels of official cross-border cooperation, U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials say.

Officials say they have no hard evidence of an al-Qaida presence in Mexico. But intelligence reports, security alerts and other recent incidents have raised fresh concern that terrorists view America's porous southern border as a window of opportunity.

"We are seeing a pattern of terrorist suspects exploring opportunities to get hold of Mexican passports and documents and infiltrating into the U.S. through Mexico," said Magnus Ranstorp, director of the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

A major concern, he said, is that terrorists will use South America as a launching pad to slip into Mexico and ultimately the United States, using smuggling rings or forged documents. Counterterrorism officials said that Islamic terrorist groups have long used the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay as a base for fund raising and recruiting.

U.S. counterterrorism officials have long viewed the Canadian border with concern. It was at a Port Angeles, Wash., border crossing in December 1999 that agents arrested Ahmed Ressam, who was subsequently convicted of plotting with al-Qaida to bomb Los Angeles International Airport.

Canada has large pockets of Middle Easterners and, compared to Mexico, the border to the north had never been heavily guarded against illegal immigrants and drug smugglers.

But according to staff members of the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, accused mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed had a keen interest in smuggling al-Qaida operatives across the Mexican border. Investigators were not able to determine whether he succeeded.

A study of border security released by the commission last month warns of links between human smugglers and terrorists. Among other concerns, the staff report cites "uncorroborated law enforcement reports suggesting that associates of al-Qaida used smugglers in Latin America to travel through the region in 2002 before traveling onward to the United States."

Despite extensive surveillance, the border remains porous because of the stretches of desert it crosses and Mexico's established smuggling networks. Some Mexican cities, including Tijuana, have sizable Arab populations, giving rise to a recent history of illegal transit of Middle Easterners across the border.

Several incidents in recent months have raised concerns, though none has been confirmed to be terrorist-related.

Earlier this year, U.S. authorities received information that Saudi-born terrorism suspect Adnan G. el Shukrijumah had been sighted in Honduras. Shukrijumah is believed to have been an al-Qaida surveillance expert who in 2001 helped case the New York Stock Exchange as a possible terrorist target.

After an investigation failed to turn up evidence that he had been in Honduras, U.S. officials enlisted the help of Mexican officials.

"We have no objective evidence to confirm that he is in Mexico, but the alert was sounded, and we are looking for him," Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, chief of Mexico's task force on organized crime, told reporters. "It is difficult to find someone who, it seems, is a ghost."

In August, U.S. authorities issued an alert for a Middle Eastern man who paid what officials said was an unusually large amount of money to be smuggled into the United States near the border town of Tecate, Mexico. He was last seen getting into a waiting black pickup and driving off into the night. Authorities have declined to release further information, or say how they learned how much he paid to be smuggled into the United States.

Last week, the Justice Department announced the arrests of three Michigan residents on charges of running an alien smuggling operation that brought some 200 citizens of Iraq, Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries to the UUnited States via South America. There is no allegation that terrorism was involved, although a Justice Department spokesman said officials view the case as "a serious border security issue."

And officials are still sorting out the case of Farida Goolam Mahomed Ahmed, a South African woman arrested July 19 by federal agents in the border city of McAllen, Texas, after swimming across the Rio Grande.

> **"We are seeing a pattern of terrorist suspects exploring opportunities to get hold of Mexican passports and documents and filtrating into the U.S. through Mexico."**
>
> **-Magnus Ranstorp**

Ahmed had traveled from Johannesburg, South Africa, via Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to London and then to Mexico City about July 14. Authorities said her passport had pages missing and she had an airline ticket to New York. A member of Congress was quoted as saying that she was on a terrorist watch list but officials declined to confirm that information. Farida, 48, remains in custody on charges of violating immigration laws.

Of all the leads about the smuggling of potential terrorists from Mexico into the United States, the most intriguing may be the case of a young Lebanese man who was dropped off at a San Diego-area hospital in June 2002.

The man, near death, showed signs of radiation poisoning, suggesting work with a radiological "dirty bomb."In the end, the radiation symptoms were discounted and the man died of undetermined causes. But the case led to the arrest of the owner of a Lebanese restaurant in Tijuana who last year was convicted of operating a smuggling ring, in league with a Mexican diplomat based in Lebanon. U.S. officials estimated that he arranged for the illegal entry of 80 to 200 Arabs into the United States over a period of months.

Then, in July, federal agents arrested an Egyptian man in Miami on charges that he ran a smuggling ring based in the Middle East and Latin America. Ashraf Ahmed Abdallah, 34, was charged with directing migrants from Egypt and neighboring countries to travel to Latin America, and from there to Guatemala, the base of the smuggling operation, where they would be transported through Mexico for entry into the United States.

Although police have not detained any terrorist suspects trying to enter the United States from Mexico, a recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement memorandum obtained by the Los Angeles Times says that the Drug Enforcement Administration developed intelligence that al-Qaida operatives have been in contact with human and drug smuggling rings in Mexico to gain entry into the United States. Homeland Security officials said they had been unable to confirm the information but take it seriously.

Border security issues in general have caused a renaissance of sorts in U.S.-Mexico relations on immigration. Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, the United States has been pressing Mexico to tighten security at its airport and borders. The Mexican response has drawn praise from U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza and other American officials, even as officials of both countries acknowledge the impossibility of fully securing the border.

"There's a constant and increasing stream of information sharing," said a U.S. official, who credits the Mexicans with "full cooperation." A Mexican official said Mexico is conducting a "very fluid, transparent" exchange of intelligence with Washington.

Mexico has taken other steps in the face of terrorist threats to the United States. It joined the United States in anti-terrorist training exercises and last year unveiled a plan to deploy 18,000 security personnel to the border.

Over the last two years, the Mexican government has arrested more than 50 former and current immigration agents and officials on charges of collaborating with migrant-smuggling rings.

"What you have is better information of who is coming into the airports, but we still have land borders that are extremely porous to undocumented migrants," said Gustavo Mohar, a migration expert and former Mexican diplomat.

CBS to Shield Source of Controversial Documents

BY DAVID FOLKENFLIK
THE BALTIMORE SUN

CBS News President Andrew Heyward said Tuesday that his network will not reveal the source of disputed documents used to report that President Bush received favored treatment in the Texas Air National Guard, even though that decision may mean many Americans would distrust a "60 Minutes" report on the subject.

"I'm confident the story was appropriately vetted before it went on the air. It is the nature of this kind of investigative reporting that sometimes sources remain confidential," Heyward said in a telephone interview. "We're going to hang tough, even if that leaves some questions unanswered."

The charged political atmosphere surrounding the story has made it more difficult to identify sources publicly, he said. "This is a political hot potato," Heyward said. "There's a kind of harassment, an attempt to intimidate, that I think gives people pause."

Republican allies of President Bush, including his wife, Laura Bush, have been joined by some mainstream media outlets in questioning the authenticity of the documents. Wednesday, The Dallas Morning News is reporting that the retired secretary to Lt. Col. Jerry B. Killian, the supposed author of the memos, believes them to be forgeries -- but that they closely resemble documents she typed about her former boss' thoughts on Bush.

While Heyward continued to stand by the network's use of the documents, he conceded Tuesday that many Americans may never be fully convinced the story is true. "I'm not sure we're going to get a definitive answer on the documents, but I've not seen anything to shake my confidence," Heyward said. "We may be faced with a situation of dueling experts. I don't know how to resolve that."

He said he was aware of the steps used to assure the story's accuracy before it was broadcast. Asked how viewers should evaluate the story, Heyward pointed to the reputation of "60 Minutes" for respected and aggressive journalism. "I would hope our experience and our reputation is a help there," Heyward said. "If we were constantly wrong and constantly irresponsible, I wouldn't expect viewers to believe us."

Last Wednesday, in a report focusing on then-Lt. George W. Bush's military service, "60 Minutes" relied on documents that anchor Dan Rather said the network had been told came from the personal file of Killian, Bush's squad commander. Killian wrote, according to memos dated 1972 and 1973, that Bush had been stripped of flight clearance because he had refused to follow orders, including the requirement to take a physical exam. The memos further suggest that Bush avoided fulfilling his military obligations because of intervention by senior officials.

Mary Mapes, the "60 Minutes" producer who first obtained the photographs of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib for broadcast, was involved in the preparation of the Air National Guard story.

But the authenticity of the documents was soon subjected to fierce scrutiny, first from online Web sites and subsequently from major news organizations, such as the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. Many of these people said the documents appear to feature font types and spacing patterns that resemble documents produced by modern word processors.

Several experienced journalists interviewed by The Baltimore Sun have said CBS needed to explain its reporting process better to ease public doubts. The involvement of Rather, the network's chief anchor, managing editor and best-known personality, has complicated the debate. On two occasions -- last Friday and Monday -- Rather devoted time on the "CBS Evening News" to a spirited defense of the story. Although Rather summarized the criticism against CBS, no dissenting voices were heard on those news segments.

Though the network has said -- and Heyward reiterated -- that several experts in documentation were interviewed on the record for the original story, only one, Marcel Matley, has been identified publicly. Others without connection to the CBS story have stepped forward subsequently with conflicting views. In addition, the network says it interviewed several of Killian's colleagues who confirmed that the memos reflected his thinking at the time. One was interviewed on the air.

But Heyward said 60 Minutes' larger story questioning Bush's military record had become unfairly overshadowed by criticism of the documents CBS used. "The fundamentals of the story have not been questioned. The debate is focused fairly narrowly," Heyward said, adding, "I don't know that we can expect that the controversy will be laid to rest."

Opinion

Letter to the Editors

To the Editors:

I sat down to read the paper like I always do and was happy to see the horoscopes in there. As I started reading what it said about me as a Leo, I got really mad. I mean honestly, why would even publish that, it was kinda of upsetting. Nine times out of ten I believe in horoscopes and other such things but never once have a read something like that. It was terrible, not even worth reading, let alone publishing it in the school newspaper. Just wanted to get my opinion out there, thanks for your time.

- Katie Bentley

Baby, you ain't seen nothin' yet

"SO IT GOES"
BY EMILY ENGEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Anoter year, another chance to totally flush other people's opinions of what's printed in the newspaper completely down the toilet. For once I was hoping to go along with the rest of the crew of columnists and have somewhat of an introductory letter, but after recieveing two ridiculous letters of complaint from two new students on campus, I decided to tackle them head on. Mainly because they were horrible, mispelled and totally irrelevant. My kind of letters!

As you can see above, both were in reference to "Madam Inez's Horoscopes"; a space-filler which was intended to make people *with* any kind of sense of humor have a few chuckles. None of us on staff thought we would get such fury from the frosh over it.

One lonely day last week, I was up in the office, minding my own business when I heard a quick scuffle outside the door. Upon opening it, I found a rather thick letter addressed to Madam Inez. After reading in disbelief of the things within this letter, I immediately wrote a rebuttle and stuck it to the door, hoping that person would walk by again. Too bad they didn't. They would've had a nice surprise.

This letter had it all! First of all, this person actually took time out of their busy schedule to copy and highlight all of the parts in which he or she saw offensive. The author had also added his or her two cents on Madam Inez's physical appearence.

.....

Okay. Where do I even begin to trash that person? First off, who gets offended by horoscopes? Especially ones that are obviously satirical? And then wastes their time complaining, highlighting, copying and running it up to the office? Amazing. Don't you kids have homework to do?

As much as I would've liked to print this amazing piece of literary awesomeness, unfortunately, the letters was misplaced after all the editors read it and had a good laugh. Too bad. It was a doozy, all right.

As for Ms. Bently's letter, which was sent to us via e-mail, let me say this first: Using good spelling and grammar makes a lot of difference to the reader. If you're going to bash us for something, please, take the extra fifteen seconds and run a spellcheck. You had the time to write down your angst, you might as well refine it, right?

Ms. Bentley, as a Leo, you're supposed to harbor some wonderful traits, such as being generous and warmheartedt, creative and enthusiastic, and faithful and loving. Hmmm. Sadly, I don't see any of those traits coming through in your badly written letter.

Well, how about the bad traits of the Leo? Pompous and patronizing, bossy and interfering, and dogmatic and intolerant. Well call me Crayola and color me tickled pink, THERE YOU ARE!

You know, I was hoping for at least ONE negative response to the spread and article on the NYC protest. Just one. Anything. Even a complaint about something silly like the camera angles. We didn't get one mention from anyone. Instead, we got letters bitching about the horoscopes. Does anyone else see a problem here?

Now that the paper has more than four members on staff, be prepared WSC, you're in for some serious controversy. If you think some lame horoscopes are as bad as we're gonna get, then baby, you ain't seen nothin' yet.

Wow, that rhymed. Go me.

'Til next time ...

The stepping stone

"THE LEFT-HANDED PAGEAU"
BY DAVID PAGEAU
VOICE COLUMNIST

Since this is my first 'real' column in our esteemed campus newspaper, I figured I would start off on the right foot and not rock the boat... yet! I am sure that most of you are wondering why my column has such a goofy name. Well, the answer is quite simple. If you see me walking around campus, you'll usually see me wearing my backpack with a pin on it that reads "Vote Republican"; it has this cute little red, white and blue elephant on it. That's all well and good, right? To each his or her own! Why is he left handed, you say? I guess I could easily summarize this by telling you, the reader, that I am not your typical conservative. I am actually not even a registered republican. If you were to glance at my little registration card you'd see that I am an independent. However, my conservative leanings are a tad different then most of you might think, or assume about me after the whole five sentences I have written.

Let's get to the big issues: First of all, I am not hyper-religious and I do not get offended when individuals don't want the Christian God as a part of their public lives. However, I am a proponent for equal religious rights and believe that anyone would have the freedom to practice the religion that they please and have it be as big or small of a part of their social lives as they please. Religion plays a major part in a number of individuals' everyday lives and this important part of them should be represented by our government.

Second, I believe in the right to own handguns. My father has been a police officer in Worcester for sixteen years and has always taught my brothers and I to view guns as a means of defense, not offense. I grew up in a household where guns were taken very seriously and the effects of irresponsible use were always in mind. Back to my point, our government is putting restraints on law abiding Americans rights to own guns and that is a complete shame. May I remind the reader that the last few governments who put as many federal sanctions on the legal possession of firearms as America does were the Nazi regime and Communist Russia. The second amendment was written to protect citizens and allow them to rise up if their government were to fall prey to an exploitive leader. But you can trust America to keep you safe, ja?

Third, and this is a doozy! I believe in legal same sex marriages nationwide. This is where I sway big time from many other conservatives. Most old-school conservatives are against same sex marriages because of religious reasons whether they are Christian, Jewish, or Islamic, all of those religions speak out against same sex marriages. However, I have no objection to same sex marriages because I believe a marriage is based upon love, not the Bible, Torah, Talmud, or Quran, and that no matter what you have between your legs love can grow between any two human beings.

Fourth, I am for the war in Iraq, but by no means do I support any agenda that George W. Bush has to set up any kind of "Democracy" in that area. No matter what you think about W's agenda on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, Bin Laden, or Saddam, the simple fact is that hundreds of thousands of people were being slaughtered in Iraq by the leader of their government, and the United Nations was not going to do a damn thing about it. The people of that region do not want our form of government because it clashes with their religion and basic way of life. Period. Our job is not to force any government on another country and baby-sit them to make sure they behave.

So there it is... My stand on the basic issues and everything you need to remember in my upcoming, not-so-politically-correct conservative jargon that I call my column. Just watch your back next week, kids.

The devil's advocate

BY PETE NORWOOD
VOICE COLUMNIST

Trying to write this article for your viewing pleasure was a hard thing to do. I have many radical ideas concerning things that should never be brought up at any normal family's dinner table. These were the ideas that I wanted to write about; the truly warped and twisted workings of my inner mind. What I finally decided to write about is actually a rather tame subject. What I chose to write about is the Patriot Act. I chose this topic because of its relevance to many of the radical ideas I would like to voice publicly. The Patriot Act is also a subject that I feel should be addressed because it concerns all of us directly. It gives the government the unprecedented ability to censor its people in ways they would have never imagined possible. This censorship is not something to be taken lightly. On the coontary, it is something that should be feared.

Firstly, let me state that I do plan on entering the political arena some day, whenever I get the chance. In order to get to the point when I have the opportunity to enter this "public arena" there are certain goals that I must achieve. The first and most important of these goals is to get a bachelor's degree (I plan on getting degrees in the fields of English and Political Science). I currectly receive financial aid from the government. All though this may seem straight-forward enough, it is possibly more complex in my mind than you could have guessed. First, it means that I was forced to register with the Selective "Slavery System" (as it is called by Scott Kohlhaas). I hate the government, I do not agree with what we are currently fighting for, and I believe the choice of whether or not I help with this war should be up to me. However, if I do not register with the Selective Service System I am not eligible for financial aid, and furthermore not eligible to continue my education.

The first few ideas that I had for this column would have been considered to be at least, radical. Unfortunately for me, I don't know exactly what the government considers "suspiciously radical" according to the relatively new laws under the Patriot Act. I do know what I hear on the news however, and I did hear that a couple was arrested in West Virginia for wearing anti-Bush T-shirts that said "Love America, Hate Bush." As a matter of fact, this event took place in early July. This is something we can all fear. If they wore shirts stating their contempt for Bush, what would happen if I were to voice my opinion and back it up? I could be inciting terrorism, arrested for this crime and lose my financial aid.

Ultimately, my biggest fear concerning the precious Patriot Act is that the government has found a way to violate its treaty with me, known as the Bill of Rights. I surrender my voice to you, Uncle Sam. If my being censored will keep me in school, I will stand idly by as you violate my constitutional right to not "have my freedom of speech abridged" Listen up Sammy, when I tell you that I hope and dream of a day where I can make any political statements that I feel are right without the fear of being arrested or persecuted for them. Until that day, I wish that if the G-men are going to amend my constitutional rights, they will at least have the decency to do so formally.

An open letter to John Kerry

"A NICKEL'S WORTH"

BY BOB MCDONALD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dear Senator Kerry,

I'm certain that you don't know who I am, but I know all about who you are. You see, I've been a strong supporter of you since way back. I'm not talking about when you first got the nomination or even when you first scored big in Iowa. No, I was a big fan when you first threw your hat in the ring by calling for "regime change at home." Since then, I've done a lot for you. I interned at your national headquarters two summers ago (you'll remember that as the summer when everyone thought that you would concede to Dean). I faithfully hung campaign signs in my dorm window and in my office at Student Government. I talked you up in classes and I followed you in the news. I spent two weeks in Boston around the time of the convention, learning as much as I could to better aid you and my party in the election.

Having said that, I hoped you would hear me out for a moment. You need to get moving on this whole "running-for-president" thing. I don't want to sound cocky or anything, but if you keep with the pace set by your opponent, you're going to disappoint a lot of people. Believe me, I am a Red Sox fan, so I know all about getting excited just to see it all get blown at the most crucial moment.

At the end of last semester, I wrote a column about how pointless an argument over military service from three decades ago was to a presidential campaign. I thought at that point that it was a no brainier. Unfortunately, you've been playing right into your opponents hand.

I don't need to tell you about how inappropriate it is for someone like George W. Bush to wage this argument. In a time of national crisis, he opted to sit out the war in the National Guard. You opted to jump right in at the most dangerous point. It was very brave of you.

However, I wouldn't count on it as a huge plus to every voter. I liked Bill Clinton better than I like you or your opponent and he rode out the war studying at Oxford (I prefer an educated President to one that can fire a gun and land a fighter jet, but that's just me). You should be proud of your military service. And you should know that I am greatly thankful to you and others like you for choosing to go into danger so that peace-nicks like me do not have to be forced to go. You should be insulted that a group of right wing cronies has decided that they have a better interpretation of history than three decades of military records. You should be even more insulted that you, a man who has seen the hellish combat that epitomizes Vietnam, could be criticized as weak on defense and soft on terror.

With all due respect sir, you have got to move on. You cannot win this fight and Bush knows it. He'll call you a flip-flopper that didn't deserve his medals, you'll call him a wuss who wouldn't know war if it slapped him in the face. The cycle will repeat, and in the end, voters are turned off from voting for either of you. The one thing that is most dangerous to your cause is to turn off voters. After the fiasco of the last election, we need every voter you can get.

Furthermore, you need to end this argument because it is a fight that means relatively nothing. I'm only a few months away from graduation, sir, and I am afraid.

I am not afraid that one day I will board a bus that contains a religious zealot with C-4 and a dream. Rather, I'm afraid that I will end up like so many of my friends who have graduated and are sitting on their degrees because they cannot find work. I am afraid that I will continue to live from paycheck to paycheck (and trust me, my tour guiding gig isn't exactly paying for my schooling).

Every minute you spend bickering with Mr. Bush about whose military record is better is a minute you have not spent talking about the shape of the economy (and before I get letters, lets make one thing clear: a "jobless recovery" is not a recovery unless your chairman of the board). Mr. Bush knows this. If you really want to go after him, you have to start calling him on it. Then you have to start \war, or why did you award no bid contracts to your running-mates former employer, or why did you cut soldiers pay at a time when they are coming home from Iraq in bags? Most of all you should ask, if you win the election, what are you planning to do about the economy in your second term and why didn't you do it in the first term?

Respectfully submitted,
Bob McDonald

Paired up against Bush

BY ASHLEY SPEICHAR
VOICE COLUMNIST

Poor George. Another coalition has formed against him and this time it's the Green Party who is trying to boot him out of office. The Green Party has devised a plan that involves "vote pairing," where a Kerry supporter in a "secure" state is paired with a Green voter in a "swing" state. The Kerry supporter, for example, from Massachusetts, vows to vote for the third party candidate while the Green party supporter from Michigan, Minnesota, Florida, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, or Pennsylvania votes for Kerry. These Green Party organizers are using the Electoral College towards their advantage by arranging to get enough votes in for Kerry to take the Electoral votes from these key states. Bush may even fall victim to the same fate as Gore, obtaining the most popular votes but losing to the system that placed him in office.

VotePair.org is launching its pairing service on September 20th and is hoping to attract tens of thousands of voters to their website and having them sign up for the swap. Back in 2000, the same mission was attempted but remained fairly unsuccessful after numerous Republicans proclaimed it was illegal to "exchange" votes and scared potential swappers with threats of fines and even imprisonment. However, this time, the ACLU has stepped in and is preparing to fight back, arguing that it is a First Amendment right to post on the Internet. This whole system hinges on the trust of the other person to vote for their given candidate. Some have suggested that Republicans may pose as Green Party members or even loyal Green members will "trick" Kerry supporters into voting for Green Party candidates but then not keeping up their end of the deal. Even if this does occur, it would most likely have little or no effect since the Kerry supporter is voting in a secure state.

Although Ralph Nader has denounced voter trading, many Greens feel it is the only way to get Bush out of office. It seems that many Greens have stepped up to make a difference because they are against the war in Iraq and see another four years with Bush as President as a "threat to the world." Whatever their cause may be, the Greens hope that this time around, the voter pairing will be successful in placing the Democrat in office. An alliance like this must have Republicans feeling a little queasy but it all depends on how smoothly the pairing system works and if the ACLU is victorious in its battle.

Some may question why exactly the Green Party and its members are going through so much trouble when it's apparent that Nader or Cobb have no chance of winning the presidency. But the Green Party still has a platform and set of ideals that it wishes to place into action and they're not about to give that up. With the voter pairing, it's a win-win situation for all; the Green Party still gets its vote and prevents itself from becoming a spoiler and Kerry can take over the oval office. It's a compromise that may continue the Bush legacy that daddy started, one term President.

Lack of voter registration among students

"JUST BETWEEN US"

BY MAUREEN PECINOVSKY
VOICE COLUMNIST

Are you registered to vote in the upcoming presidential election? This topic came up in one of my classes the other day, and I was shocked to discover that less than fifty percent of the students were registered and I'm sure that the numbers would be very similar in many classrooms here and on college campuses nationwide.

According to an article from rawstroy.com, only 38 percent of citizens 18-29 voted in the 2000 election. This discovery along with the lack of interest of my peers in the 2004 election caused two questions to come to mind. First of all, why aren't more people our age voting? Secondly, does this make anyone else besides me nervous?

Let's examine the first question. Why are so many people ages 18-29 not registering and not voting in presidential elections? To me it just seems like common sense that this is something you do as an American citizen. You vote. Obviously not everyone agrees with me.

So is it pure laziness? Are people not registering because they do not want to take the time. I registered to vote in under five minutes, but maybe that is too much for some people. Do people not want to make the effort? In that case, I'll let you in on a secret: MASSPIRG has voter registration forms they hand out at the Ely campus center. If that is still inconvenient, you can do it online. Just one of the many websites you can do this at is rockthevote.com. I don't see how the process could get any simpler, but maybe I'm wrong.

The alternative to laziness, which I believe to be far scarier, is apathy. Is it possible that people are genuinely unconcerned and disinterested by a presidential election and politics? I do not understand this at all because whoever takes office and the political party that goes with them are going to have an impact on our lives.

I hear people say all the time that they hate politics, but that doesn't make sense to me either because we're not talking about something that only goes on in Washington D.C., we are talking about our lives. Maybe some people find it to be a boring topic or a scary subject, but politics means jobs, finances, cost of education, health care, war, the draft, a woman's right to choose. The list goes on. There must be something in there that affects your life. To all those people who say they hate politics and that is why they choose not to get involved, no offense, but that's crap.

I have also heard the excuse that some people don't feel they know enough about the candidates to make a decision. I can relate to this to a certain extent. I don't check out the presidential candidates' websites every day, but I don't think you have to even put in that much effort. Turn on the news and I guarantee you will hear something about one if not two of the presidential candidates.

Some people choose not to vote because they do not like any of the presidential candidates. I can respect this. However, if you agree with at least one candidate on one issue, then there is a reason for you to vote. By the way, there are more candidates than just Bush and Kerry. Do they have a chance of winning? It's not likely, but you do have among students other choices.

Let's get back to the reason this subject has come up; my class discussion. As I was sitting there listening to people's reasonings for not registering to vote, I became very nervous. It dawned on me that these people, along with thousands of other apathetic people of my generation, will one day be in charge of this country. At this point, I began to realize that our future is looking pretty dim if we do not change our attitudes.

The point I am trying to make, which many of you may have missed because of my sarcasm, is that we are adults, and we are old enough to make decisions, and judging by the fact that we are in college, I like to think that we are smart enough to make decisions. My advice to you is to register, do a little research on the candidates, show up to the polls on election day, and vote. I'm not even going to tell you who to vote for, I'm just telling you to vote. Be responsible in your life if for only one day out of every four years.

Truth

BY DAVID MACHNIK
VOICE COLUMNIST

I have noticed that a lot of people think that truth is relative. If you go to a different society or experience a change within the one you are a part of, that things like morality and right and wrong are different. If what is right in one culture is wrong in another, then what makes terrorism wrong? How about murder or rape? If everyone has their own truth, then I should be able to do what I want to whom ever I want without consequences. This simply is ridiculous. Whether you want to accept it or not, truth is unchangeable, eternal, and absolute. Whether you want to accept it or not, murder, stealing, adultery and rape are wrong. Whether you want to accept it or not, stealing is wrong.

Some may argue that if you are poor or homeless, then stealing is justified, but this simply is not true. I know many homeless people personally and they do not steal even when they are starving. People have this idea that being poor justifies stealing because they have watched or read Robin Hood way too many times. Where is the line of rich and poor? If stealing from the rich to give to the poor is acceptable, then why shouldn't anyone not as well off as you are be able to take whatever they want from you without repercussions? If you are middle class, then should someone considered "poor" be able to justify stealing from you because in his or her eyes you "can afford it?" No. The same holds true for middle class to rich.

People use the excuse that it is their life and they are entitled to privacy to justify cheating on people. Whether you get caught or not, cheating is cheating and it is wrong. Two wrongs do not make a right. If your spouse or boyfriend or girlfriend cheats on you, that does not give you the right to go and do the same. It is still just as wrong.

Truth is unchangeable whether you want to believe it or not. It does not matter if you believe in heaven and hell because that does not make them any less real. Here is some other eternal unchangeable truths: God came down in the flesh as Jesus Christ and was crucified and resurrected. Jesus is alive forever more and is seated at the right hand of the Father until He comes again as a lion instead of a lamb. You can believe that Jesus is not coming back or that you are not accountable to Him, but that does not make it so much as an iota less true. Jesus is the only way to get to heaven and to be with God and that is another everlasting truth. Another truth is that if you do not confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ as Lord, and believe in you heart that he raised from the dead, then you are going to hell.

Sit down!

"EXTRANEOUS"

BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Last week, a well-meaning member of MASSPIRG came into my class and started passing around voter registration information. She explained that the 18-24 age demographic was the least politically active, at least in terms of voter participation. While she had her own obvious beliefs relating to who should win the upcoming election, she told us that no matter who we backed, we should cast out votes. Keeping this in mind, I have a minor request to make.

Please, don't rock the vote. Seriously. It doesn't need to be rocked. Influenced, revised in execution and financing, sure. But not rocked. The democratic ideals that this republic is ostensibly based on employ the election of officials as the end result of a mandate by the people. "The People" express through popular, organized outcry (voting) that they want Bob Shmoblin or whomever to become their new leader.

And this very principle, one of the greater public mandate, is the reason why I oppose efforts to encourage people to vote. Reluctant voters are indescribably less likely to have informed opinions about the issues, candidates, and the relations of the two. If someone doesn't consider politics an important enough issue to get off their proletarian posteriors and register themselves to vote, then what are the odds they're going to take the time to inform themselves of the facts related to the candidates? In all likelihood, they are going to cast their vote based on some vague, media-induced stereotype of a candidate they very well may have never heard speak. An election could very easily come down to the question of whether *The Daily Show* or *Fox News* got more viewers this fall.

Such a result isn't public mandate. The vast majority of the nonvoting public simply doesn't care one way or the other.

Now I'm not saying that that's a good thing by any means. Quite the opposite. I believe that this country would be at least marginally better off if the vast majority of the public was politically motivated and informed. But you need both of those things for worthwhile change to be implemented, not just one. I can't even begin to conceive of a doctrine of thought that would encourage someone to vote without first trying to instill in them a framework of the decisions they would, in their own ineffectual way, be helping to determine.

That said, you should all go out and vote for John Kerry. He's not the ideal candidate by any stretch, but at least he's not a pencil-necked fascist who turned a national tragedy into a political weapon and got over 1,000 of our soldiers killed because he can't say no to his daddy's friends.

Getting back to normal

"MARTY KNOWS...MAYBE"

BY KRISTINA MARTINELLI
VOICE COLUMNIST

Ah well... It's good to be back at WSC. After 9 months in the desert, schoolbooks and a dorm room are actually something to look forward to. I really couldn't wait to get back into the swing of things and get my senior year over with. Most of you may have noticed, well juniors, seniors, and professors, that I am writing under a different column title. I feel that Marty is a much more suitable nickname for me. Anyway, most of my friends in the military have been calling me that for about a year now, and I'm pretty in favor of it.

I guess one of the biggest adjustments with coming back to college was realizing that I hardly know anyone. Two years ago when I was a junior, there was hardly a face on campus that I didn't recognize. Even some of the professors that I have are new. There is always one thing I can count on here at college: most of my professors bringing up politics in one way or another, no matter what class I'm in. Then there's always their liberal point of view, but that's another column all together.

So far this semester, comments are based along the lines of voting and how important it is to do so. This is one issue that I agree with them on. Registering to vote, if you haven't done so already, is as easy as going to the MASSPIRG office in Ely or going to www.HowardStern.com. Yes...Howard Stern. While listening to the radio this morning, I learned that Howard and the other voices on the radio are very much into the election this year.

One thing you learn very quickly is that Howard Stern is an avid supporter of John Kerry. There was a comment he made about the number of people he has influenced since they started listening to his show. Approximately 8% of the voting populous listens to Howard Stern. Of that 8%, he has influenced approximately 25% of his listeners to vote for John Kerry. If you really think about it, that is quite a large number of people.

Now some of who remember may be crossing your fingers that Howard Stern changes my mind too. Well, don't hold your breath. For now, I remain a GW Bush fan, and I don't see that changing anytime in the future. Actually, and I'll say this while I can, I can't stand Kerry. Flat out, I don't like him and I don't trust him. Now, if for some reason and I pray this doesn't happen, Kerry gets elected into office I will no long say exactly how I feel about him. I'm sure that some of you are crossing your fingers on that one too. I mean, you don't want to be driving around with a "Let's Not Elect Bush in 2004 Either" bumper sticker attached to your car.

Ok, so enough of my rants. I was going to tell you what meat was in my sandwich, but Emily said that was a no go. Lucky you. I'll have a better column next week; I'm a bit rusty right now. I hope you register to vote. The deadline is 13 October. Oh, and if you visit the Howard Stern web-site, I'm sure there's something interesting for you to look at while your registering.

Welcome back from Dr. Jackson

Dear Westfield State College Students:

Now that we have all settled into our routines and have our schedules committed to memory, the Division of Student Affairs welcomes you for the 2004-2005 academic year. This summer has been busy with the arrival of Westfield State's new president, Dr. Vicky L. Carwein. Other exciting activities include the opening of the new academic/athletic field house, the Woodward Center, and the continuing construction of the College's newest residence hall.

In between overseeing the building of the new residence hall and getting ready for new and returning students, Residential Life has been busy planning and developing many exciting programs for the upcoming year. The staff will continue the Passport Program that sponsors programs throughout the year.

If your interests include sports, the athletic teams will be competing in football, field hockey, soccer, cross-country and volleyball; everyone is welcome to attend the games and show support for the teams and athletes. Or if you want to have fun in sports without joining a team, the Athletics department also offers an intramural recreational program with over 29 different sports.

The Guest Lecture Series will be offered again, free of charge to all attendees, which hosts national and international speakers discussing a variety of topics.

The Student Government Association coordinates information on over 50 clubs at Westfield State. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of leadership opportunities by contacting Residential Life, Campus Center, Campus Voice and your academic departments.

Your success in your academic studies at the College is our first priority. If you need assistance with these matters, please visit the Academic Achievement Center and Writing Center in Parenzo Hall or ask your professors for assistance. Also, Student Affairs departments are available to assist you with various services. These offices are listed below:

Athletics – Woodward Center x5405

Campus Center – Ely 133 x5648

Career Services – Lammers Annex x5206

Counseling Center – Lammers Annex x5790

Health Services – Scanlon Annex x5415

Judicial Affairs – Ely 146 x5403

Public Safety – Public Safety Building x5262

Residential Life – Scanlon Annex x5402

I hope you will take advantage of the occupational pursuits by participating in Career Services programs and practicums/internships offered through your academic department. These endeavors will greatly improve your opportunities for employment upon graduation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to visit me in Ely Building, Room 236.

Sincerely,
Dr. Arthur R. Jackson
Vice President, Student Affairs

Arts & Entertainment

Pizzeria Paradiso review finds it not a 'must eat'

BY EMILY RANSOM
A & E EDITOR

Northampton hosts various coffee places, clubs, and intriguing shops but many locals enjoy the many restaurants Noho has to offer.

Wandering around there are all different types, but 'Dining without the Commons' recently tried Pizzeria Paradiso but had mixed emotions by the end of the meal.

Pizzeria Paradiso is located in Northampton on Crafts Ave. close to the main road. It has a charming atmosphere. Pizzeria Paradiso has almost a hole-in-the-wall, real Italian sense about it. The smell of fresh basil and red wine are faint but apparent.

The restaurant was accommodating to the group of nine, seating all parties promptly. After being seated this pace ended. Apparently they were going for a relaxed, authentic, three-hour Italian meal. The energy in the restaurant came from the bar rather than the servers.

After a long wait with plenty of time to ponder over the menu, the choices were made. The menu was found to have a remarkable selection.

Appetizers included gorgonzola garlic bread, fried mozzerella, calamari, buffalo wings and several others, all priced between $4.50 and $8.95.

Their salads were impressive with side or meal options. The menu then leads to the pies. The wood fire, brick oven pizzas are served as 10 inch individuals or 16 inch feeding three.

One diner familiar with authentic pizza of Rome found the Quattro Formaggi to be somewhat satisfactory. Those who ordered the Chicken Pesto were disappointed.

The individual pies were about $10 and the large sizes were around $19. They offered a very extensive list of possible toppings.

The five cheese calzone was considered to be a let down since it was too greasy and not hot. The cheeses congealed making it not very appetizing because it also did not have much dough.

The pasta entrees were traditional, but the shrimp scampi was mediocre.

The children's menu was cute and the bar had a good selection but because the service and the kitchen took as long as they did, the overall experience was not top-notch.

Dining without the Commons

Taste: ★★

Price: $6.95-$15.95

Location: Northampton

Service:*

Specialties: Brick oven pizza

Two of the nine meals took over twenty minutes longer than the other seven. Since there was no apology or even acknowledgement of this the 'Dining without the Commons' talked to the manager who was more than helpful.

The twenty percent gratuity was removed from the bill as were the two late meals.

The diners who did not finish their pizzas were dissatisfied with the meal to the extent that they did not even bring them home. Near broke college students refusing doggie bags is the sign of an unpleasant meal from nine college students.

Overall the dining experience was mediocre. The restaurant seems like it could have potential at non-peak dining hours, and with small groups of people.

The Pizzeria Paradiso website, www.fun-dining.com/paradiso.htm boasts an upcoming edition on the Phantom Gourmet. They have a menu, hours, and photos.

Although it was not a wonderful dining experience, it might strike the fancy of some. It has potential so it could warrant another try from the 'Dining without the Commons,' but until then it is not a favorite of Noho.

Red Carpet Fashion

BY ELLE FASHIONISTA
FASHION COLUMNIST

Fall is officially here and the runways of New York and Paris have made it clear what is totally hot for this year's back to school line and what is not!

Ladies: It's time to pack up the minis and tiny tanks! This fall try something new and don't kill your budget! A short skirt looks fab with an oxford shirt and sweater (a total classic look).

Don't forget, a slim fitting polo can look just as sexy as a belly-bearing tee. (Don't have it? Wait a week; get it on sale!)

Jeans this fall are riding as low as they come, but we need to tuck those panties in! When in the dressing room do a simple test...SIT DOWN! Lower back is hot; a little crack is NOT!

Pair up low riders with a tweed jacket (a must have for this fall/ winter) and don't forget your jeweled pin to bring out all the sparkle in your personality!

Can't part with your favorite summer skirt? Bring it right through the season, add a scarf and pair it with pointy shoes and a denin jacket.

Gentlemen: ...And you thought pink was a girly color! Not the case at alll! Pink is this season's HOTTEST color for guys!

Think Oxford or Polo... Dirty denim is again the must have for any male trendsetter. Try adding a collared shirt to the mix and dressing it up a bit!

Pink still not your color? Light blue looks amazing on most people, but be careful not to pair it with light wash jeans! Simple tip: Think dark on the bottom and bright on the top.

Tired of the same look? Buy a tie. A striped tie (that you can get anywhere for any price) can be worn with a collared shirt and slipped under a form fitting tee, zip up cardigan, long sleeve polo or your favorite sweater. The look is hot and defiantly not high school.

It's questionable weather or not turtle neck sweaters are going to make it back for a fifth year or not...so check out a new look and don't be afraid to try it on before you buy it!

Keep these simple things in mind and we'll keep the red carpet at Westfield a trendy one!

Calling all members of the class of 2008!

Elections are: Tue, Sept 21
Wed, Sept 22

Vote for YOUR class council!

Wilson Hall/Commuter Cafe Area : 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Ely Campus Center: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Dining Commons: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Are YOU into:

Music
Drama
Movies
Concerts
Live Performances
Poetry Readings

A&E needs: reviews, previews, opion pieces on anything A&E related!

HAVE IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS???
EMAIL THE VOICE: THECAMPUSVOICE@HOTMAIL.COM
CALL THE OFFICE: X. 5431 ASK FOR EMILY R

The Voice

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THE VOICE
PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Joey "You're Fired"

BY JILL MONSON
VOICE REPORTER

My name is Jill Monson, and I am a senior and new to The Voice. The A&E editor wanted to know if I'd like to do reviews? Well, I thought, I am very shy and I have a hard time expressing my opinion... NOT!

My friends have endured years of my opinions (a couple have actually changed phone numbers recently) and I thought it might be time to invest in a new audience.

I remember when I was a kid (and yes there was TV way back in those days) that Labor Day meant two things... the start of school and Fall television. When did that change? So many of our favorite shows are not coming back until late this month, some won't even hit the boob tube until late October or November. Not to mention many new shows not debuting for weeks.

I never thought I'd say this, but thank goodness for the Olympics. They sparked NBC to launch its fall season including the "Friends" spin-off "Joey" and a second go around at Trump's "The Apprentice".

I will be the first to admit that I was skeptical about "Joey", but Matt LeBlanc actually may have pulled it off. The opening scene is classic Joey. He's in a cab telling the driver how he's an actor and so excited to be here (inferring L.A.), when the cab driver says then why are you in Dallas? Joey realizes he had a layover and you see the cab U-turn.

The basis for the story is Joey is headed to Hollywood to pursue acting. His sister, Gina played by Drea de Matteo (you might remember her as Adriana from "The Sopranos"), lives with her just graduated from college son. Michael is a recent college graduate and a rocket scientist, who in the first episode becomes Joey's roommate.

I liked that references were made to "Friends". In a very funny line by Gina she says something about Joey and Chandler being a gay couple. Joey also makes reference to his friends moving on. I hope they continue to subtly drop in those comments.

The show's a little predictable with a gorgeous blond neighbor and it is far fetched with Joey's huge apartment on an unemployed actors salary. It is clichéd with Gina's huge implants. But I think you can look past that, even past the nails on the chalkboard laugh-track and find a show that will fill a void and make you chuckle. "Joey" is on NBC, Thursdays at 8pm.

I have been called a reality TV junkie, but I have found my caviar... "The Apprentice". Donald Trump has done it again. Millions of people tried out for season two and eighteen now compete in the fifteen-week job interview for a chance to run one of his companies.

The opening credits role while *For the Love of Money* by the O'Jays plays (us old timers remember the original) and Trump announces what he's looking for... intelligence and leadership. In the opening night two teams were created... men against women. But reality TV must have a twist – one man and one woman had to switch teams and be the project manager, or leader of the other genders team. Team names were created. The men chose Mosaic while the women picked Apex. Each team's goal was to create a toy for Mattel.

The most marketable toy meant the winning team. Mosaic lost and headed to the boardroom. In the end it was Rob who heard the now infamous words, "You're fired!"

There's actually only one thing disappointing about this show. That is that the candidate's fit a "pretty" mold; which signals that you might not be Trump quality if your pants size is larger.

One thing to watch for though (which will give Comm professors something to talk about) is product placement. This week it was Mattel, but there are going to be lots! I would recommend this show 100%. "The Apprentice" is on NBC, Thursdays at 9pm.

I will close by giving you "Jill's additional recommendation and radar list" for Fall TV on the major networks. CSI: NY, Clubhouse, Survivor: Vanuatu, Desperate Housewives, North Shore The O.C

Resident Evil for fans, not critics

BY BOB MCDONALD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Resident Evil: Apocalypse entered the cinematic arena with three major handicaps: it is a zombie movie, it is a sequel, and it is based on a video game. All of these factors ensured that it would have a hard time winning over film critics. While Apocalypse may not be a great film, it is an entertaining movie that will no doubt captivate fans of the game or zombie movies in general.

Following the lab outbreak in the first film, the Umbrella Corporation, who is responsible for creation of the zombie-creating T-virus, inadvertently releases the virus on Raccoon City (a barely disguised Toronto, Canada), which quickly becomes the city of the dead. Alice (Milla Jovovich), the survivor from the first film, and others must find a way out of the zombie-ridden city. The main obstacle in the path out is Nemesis, an Umbrella creation whose primary purpose is to seek and destroy Alice and her companions.

This movie is entertaining in many ways. Fans of zombie films will enjoy it, as there is enough blood, gore, and scares contained to keep fans at bay. The undead scenes are not terribly innovative, but they are far from boring.

Those that think highest of this film will be fans of the video game series from which this film is based. The movie takes place during Resident Evil 2 and Resident Evil 3: Nemesis, borrowing character and plot elements that fans will enjoy noticing. This film contains far more visual references to the games than its predecessor.

While I enjoyed watching this film (I am a die hard fan of the video game series), I also realized that it was not as impressive as the first film. The plot and characters are weak, however that is to be expected in a zombie flick. However, the dialog is especially atrocious.

The standard action movie lines (ex. "I'm good, but I'm not that good") run rampant. Jill Valentine (Sienna Guillory), the heroine from the third game, is the best example of this. She spends the movie running around in a miniskirt and tube top, spouting off bad action lines like a two-bit Lara Croft. The bad characterizations can almost be made up for on the addition of L.J. (Mike Epps), the comic relief of the film. Nearly all of his lines are hysterical and his performance is highly entertaining.

The other noticeable problem with the film deals with the action. The film is yet another example of the mistake in filmmaking that says an action sequence is not cool unless it features wire stunts and MTV style editing. Some sequences are overdone to the point of disbelief, such as one sequence in which Alice fights off a trio of Lickers using a motorcycle. Others are edited together so fast that the audience doesn't have a clue as to what is happening.

Despite the flaws it exhibits, Resident Evil: Apocalypse is not a failure or a disappointment. While it is no Night of the Living Dead, it is far from House of the Dead (another video game based zombie flick that adds new definition to the word terrible). This movie will succeed in its primary goal: entertaining zombie and Resident Evil fans. All others may want to go to the matinee showing, just in case.

For Further Viewing: If you like this film and haven't played the games it is based on, I highly recommend renting them. The Resident Evil series falls in the genre of survival horror, which means that your primary objective is to escape alive. The games mix the standard shoot-em-up action with intriguing puzzles and in depth back-stories that create an enjoyable and entertaining mix. Resident Evil (the 2002 Gamecube remake) and Resident Evil: Code Veronica X are the best.

Have you registered to vote yet??

DON'T FORGET!!

The deadline to register to vote is October 13 so stop by Ely 234 A to register today!

Got PI ?

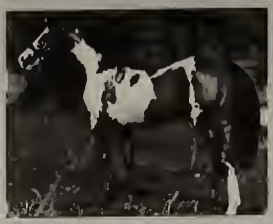
Join us Wednesday 9/22
6 p.m. Dickinson Commo n Room
International Honor Society
Must be: Junior or Senior
Have minimum 3.0 GPA
Have 12 credits in Education
Questions??? Contact Holly x 7909

R.A.D.
Rape Agression Defense System
Last chance to sign up
Registration limited to 16!

can you committ to?
Sept. 23
Sept. 28
Sept. 30
Oct. 5
Oct. 7

Contact: Jes Rich x.5533 days
Officer Jay Hastings x. 5262 evenings

Interested in learning to ride horses? Come join the Equestrian Team!



Whether you have ridden for a long time or are just a beginner, you're still welcome!

Contact Meghan at x 7626 for more information, or e-mail wscequestrian@yahoo.com

Public Safety Announcement

Students with a South Lot parking decal can park in Commuter parking from Friday 5 pm to Sunday at midnight.

Please Do not park in Main Lot, or in any Faculty/Staff parking

Seen on the Green

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Dan Daley a Junior Art major skates outside of the Parenzo gym. Daley has been skating for 7 years and said if he skates in front of Ely the ISO's usually make him stop.

The Voice

Is Hiring

WE HAVE POSITIONS OPEN FOR A BUSINESS MANAGER, A DISTRIBUTOR AND TWO OTHER GENERAL OPENINGS. ALL POSITIONS ARE WORK STUDY AND PAY FOR A 6 HOUR WORK WEEK. EXPERIENCE IS NOT REQUIRED. BUSINESS MANAGER DUTIES INCLUDE; DEALING WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL BUSINESSES FOR ADVERTISEMENT REVENUE, ORGANIZE INVOICE SLIPS AND COLLECTING CHECKS. YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION. DISTRIBUTOR DUTIES INCLUDE; DELIVERING THE PAPERS EITHER FRIDAY AFTERNOON OR MONDAY TO ALL THE RESIDENCE HALLS THE DINING COMMONS, THE ACADEMIC HALLS THE COMMUTER CAFE AND POSSIBLY THE WOODWARD CENTER. ANYONE INTERESTED MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 'THE VOICE' OFFICE X5431 OR STOP BY ELY C-248.

2004 Football Preview

Owls Seek Fourth Straight Title

The sparkling trophy case in Westfield State College's new field house is already stocked with championship trophies.

But the 2004 WSC football team is certain it can find space in the case for another trophy as it prepares to defend the New England Football Conference Bogan Division championship for the third straight season.

Westfield State has compiled a 25-7 record over the past three years, including a perfect 18-0 division record. The Owls have played in three consecutive NEFC championship games and won the 2001 title when they earned their first NCAA Tournament berth.

"We talk to the players about it all the time," said 15th year head coach Steve Marino of his team's impressive three-year championship run. "We've started a tradition here and the players, even the freshmen, are all aware of it."

As expected, defending the title won't be easy. The Owls graduated a number of talented players from last year's team, including wide receiver Matt Yvon and quarterback Chris Lapointe, who hold nearly every school receiving and passing record. All America center Rob Byrne and all-conference linebacker Mike Hurteau also finished their collegiate careers in 2003.

In addition, the Owls will tackle another challenging schedule that includes rivals Fitchburg State, Bridgewater State and Worcester State, a team the Owls have beaten by a total of 10 points the past three games. Westfield's crossover NEFC games are Nichols and Curry, the only two teams that defeated the Owls in 2003.

But the tradition has been established, the coaching staff has remained stable for the past six years, and the Owls have 13 returning starters.

Here's a look at the 2004 Owls by position:

OFFENSIVE LINE

Marino strongly believes the offensive line's development into a solid unit is critical.

"That's the whole key to it (offense)," he said. "We are solid at the skilled position, the big question is whether or not we can get the blocking up front to protect our quarterback and give Don (Jones) running room."

Returning starters are senior guard John Kelley (6-1, 290), junior guard Chuck Monfett (6-0, 295) and senior tight end Brian Maver (6-6, 280). Junior Chris Nuzzo (6-0, 265), who saw considerable action last year, is listed as the right guard. Freshmen center Jeff Bienvenue (5-11, 240) and tackle Harrison Fox (6-4, 250) are also scheduled to start.

Backups include sophomore center/tackle Paul Geary, freshman Sean Gilrein, freshman Nick Criscitelli, and junior Wayne Browning.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Despite the departure of Yvon, the Owls have talent and depth here, starting with senior David Trueira (39 receptions, 493 yards, 5 TDs) and junior B.J. Holleran (13 catches, 138 yards). Also returning are Tim Tontonoz, Andrew Maxwell and John Walsh. Freshman to watch are Billy Stewart and Steve Yelle.

OFFENSIVE BACKS

Westfield's experience at this skilled position begins with Don Jones. The 5-6, 192-pound senior running back has been a workhorse for the past two years, carrying the ball 516 times in 21 games for an average of nearly 25 rushes per game. Last season he rushed for 1,281 yards; he has 2,761 career rushing yards.

"Don looks good, he looks strong and quick," said Marino. "He has a chance to finish his career with 4,000 yards if he stays healthy."

Jones, who played at 200 pounds last season to withstand the constant pounding, has lost about 10 pounds in preparation for a big senior season.

"I believe it (192 pounds) gives me the correct balance between speed and power," said Jones.

Providing depth in the backfield are junior Jose Molina, who rushed for 208 yards last season, and redshirt freshman Dan Stern, who is still recovering from a serious knee injury that he sustained in the first game last season.

The Owls are set at fullback with the return of junior Mark Puchalski, a talented 6-2, 230-pounder blocking back who also has running and receiving skills.

"I think "Puck" can be an all-conference player," said Marino.

The veteran coach says quarterback is one of the strongest positions despite the departure of Lapointe. Returning is junior Mike Lorenzano, who filled in capably when Lapointe was sidelined for four games last season with a hand injury. Lorenzano threw for 478 yards and six touchdowns and ran for 74 yards and an additional two scores.

A key acquisition is senior quarterback Jon Meczywor, a transfer from the University of Maine. The talented 6-5, 225-pounder is making a strong bid for the starting spot with his passing and running skills.

Meczywor earned playing time at Division I-AA Maine as the starting punter. A native of Lanesboro, he also excelled in basketball and track and field at Mt. Greylock High School in Williamstown and was the Berkshire County Athlete of the Year in 2000.

Marino is also impressed with freshman quarterback Brett LeClere, a 6-2, 195-pound quarterback from Bridgewater-Raynham High School.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Marino says that the defense will set the tone for the Owls, and it begins with the line, which is led by all-conference and All-East Region end Jessie Holmes. The quick and athletic 6-2, 225-pounder from Springfield set a school record in 2003 with 14 sacks and finished the season with 61 tackles, including 20 for losses.

"Jessie is a great player and has a chance to be an All American if we can have a good season," said Marino.

Junior end Justin Sargent also returns as a starter. The Nashua, N.H., native was the sixth leading tackler in 2003 with 50 stops.

The starting tackles are familiar faces who were not with the team in 2003. Junior Casey Lawrence (6-2, 240) was called to active military duty last year and senior Stan Pa'u (6-2, 280) returns after a three-year hiatus.

Reserves include junior Adam Lapon and freshman David Monfett, the younger brother of offensive lineman Chuck Monfett.

LINEBACKERS

Starters returning are senior Matt Woolver, the second leading tackler in 2003, and senior Dave Granados, who ranked fifth in tackles last year. Junior Rick Colburn is slated to start at middle linebacker, while junior Jim Fennelly of Wilmington, a transfer from Division II University of Missouri Rolla, will see plenty of action.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Westfield has depth and experience in the secondary. Returning are juniors Ryan Riley (strong safety), Jay Abair, Craig Skribiski and Ryan Togneri (free safety), and sophomore Dave Webster. Sophomore Tyler Charette and freshman Kyle Newton are vying for playing time.

"We defend the run the well and we have some smart players who can defend the pass," said Marino.

SPECIALTY TEAMS

The Owls have a nice dilemma as Puchalski was one of the top punters in the NEFC last season, while Meczywor punted at Maine. Handling the placekicking chores is freshman Garrett Davis of Belchertown. Trueira, Abair and Stern are slated to return kicks and punts.

David Trueira shows his best Heisman pose as he attempts to elude a WNEC defender. The Owls committed four costly turnovers in their 26-21 season-opening loss at WNEC. *Mickey Curtis Photo*

Westfield State College 2004 football captains, left to right: Jessie Holmes, David Trueira, Matt Woolver, Don Jones.

Trinity College men's soccer players and Westfield State's Andy Tighe, far left, react in disbelief following a fantastic header save inside the right post by Owl defender Jay Jeffrey with 10 seconds remaining in the game. The Owls posted a big 1-0 victory in Hartford on Sept. 12. *Mickey Curtis Photo*

Westfield State senior captain Amy Svatik was named to the all-tournament team at the WNEC volleyball invitational.

Sophomore midfielder Kate Anderson recorded five assists in the first three games, all victories, for the Westfield State field hockey team.

Women's Soccer Wins Two

WESTFIELD – Freshman forward Nicolle Culverwell (Ludlow/Monson High School) scored the only goal to lead Westfield State to a 1-0 women's soccer victory over Mount Holyoke on Sept. 11.

Culverwell converted the game-winning goal in the 54th minute after a misplay by the Mt. Holyoke goalie.

Westfield outshot Mt. Holyoke, 7-0.

The Owls, 2-1 overall, won their first game of the season by defeating Elms, 2-1. Scoring were senior Nikki Hebert and Emily Johnson, who curled in a corner kick through a crowd of defenders that proved to be the game-winning goal.

Cross Country Results

Vassar Invitational at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Men's Cross Country
Second Place (11 teams)
5. Geoff Churchill, 28:41.22
10. Nathan Crislofoni, 28:58.85
11. Andy Messer, 28:58.85
14. John Messer, 29:34.25
17. Matt Frederick, 30:00.63

Women's Cross Country
Fourth Place (11 teams)
4. Heather Wenninger, 19:38.77
23. Aimee Worcester, 21:10.64
25. Kim Grant, 21:14.57
30. Alison Wesolowski, 21:34.68
33. Marissa Blume, 21:46.95
45. Caitlin Bates, 22:17.70

The Intramurals Office Has Moved!

Visit us in our new home in Parenzo Gym (169)
(Right Under the Basketball Hoop)

Check Out Our New Website:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Always Current and Up to Date.
For All Your Intramural Needs
Rosters / Rules etc... everything you need to know can be found online.

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals

Have Fun - Meet New People

Woodward Center Field House
& Parenzo Gymnasium

Open Gym

Schedule subject to change
See Intramural website or call x5417 or x5424

Sept 20 - Woodward - 4pm-8pm
Parenzo - 3pm-6pm
Sept 21 - Woodward - 3:30-5:30pm & 8:30-10:30pm
Parenzo - 12pm-10pm
Sept 22 - Parenzo - 12pm-10pm
Sept 23 - Woodward - 3:30-5:30pm & 8:30-10:30pm
Parenzo - 12pm-10pm
Sept 24 - Parenzo 12pm-10pm
Sept 25 - Woodward - 6pm-8pm
Parenzo 5pm-8pm
Sept 26 - Woodward - 4pm-8pm
Parenzo - 3pm-8pm
Sept 27 - Woodward - 4pm-8pm
Parenzo - 3pm-8pm

WSC Student / Staff Only - ID Required
NO Street Shoes Allowed
Must have a 2nd pair of clean shoes.

Still Accepting Rosters for:

1 Pitch Softball
Flag Football (M & W)
Volleyball (M & W)

One More Week Only

Remember!!

IDs are Required for Every Event

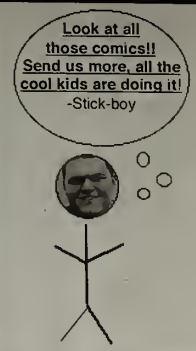
including
Intramurals and Open Gym

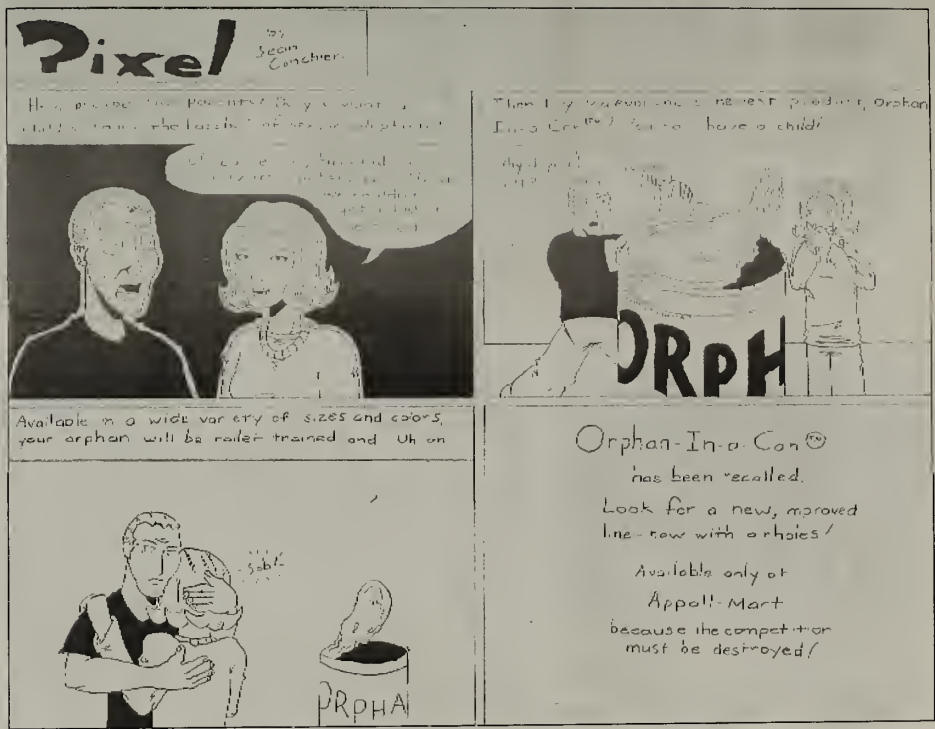
Work Study Positions are still available in Athletics.

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"My friends had a contest to see who could steal the most dining hall silverware. And I know stealing is wrong, but I think at $12 a meal, you should get to keep the fork."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:
www.collegehumor.com
You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots*.
Check your local bookstore.





The Back Page

Class of 2008 Elections
Vote
Tuesday and Wednesday

8am-10am - Commuter Cafe
10am-4pm - Ely Lobby
4pm-6pm - Dinning Commons

CLASS OF 2005 PRESENTS:
SENIOR NIGHT
Friday, Sept 24
8pm – Midnight
Third World Room
21+ only
Alcohol Servies Provided

WSC Athletics This Week
Field Hockey @ Trinity - 9/21
Volleyball @ Anna Maria - 9/22
W. Soccer @ RI College - 9/22
M Soccer v. Keene State - 9/22, 7p
M Soccer v. Newbury - 9/25, 1p
Football @ Fitchburg - 9/25

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	20 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 & 6:30 - 9:45 - Ely Pool Monday Evning Jazz - EML - 7p	21 Freshman Elections Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	22 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Commuter BBQ - 12-2p - Bates Lawn C.A.B. - 5p - SGA Office	23 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool RAD Training - 333 - 5-9pm	24 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Senior Night - TWR - 7-Midnight	25 WSC Men's Soccer v. Newbury - Alumni Field - 1pm
26 Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon	27 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm	28 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	29 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Lazer 99.3 Campus Tour - Campus Green - 11:30-2:00pm	30 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool	1 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Brown Bag Bingo - EML - 11pm	2 FAMILY WEEKEND FEATURING: Campus Carnival - Campus Green - 9am-4pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****
We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, photographers, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

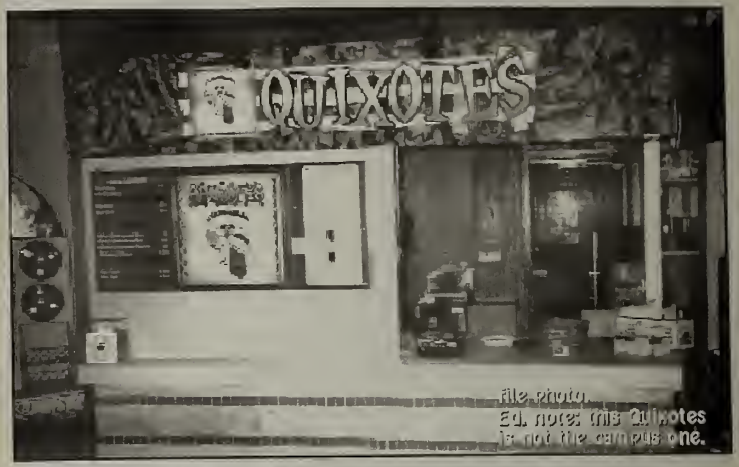
Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups
The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248 or email us at:
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X **September 20, 2004** **Issue III**

Freshman & Hall Council Elections. Get your vote on *pg. 1*

Protestors? No Problem! WSC student braves RNC *pg. 1*



file photo
Ed. note: this Quixotes is not the campus one.

Shadow of censorship looms over 'Voice' read this weeks Editors desk *pg. 2*

Taco Bell gone, Sodexho muscles into the commuter lounge *pg. 1*

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | September 27, 2004 | Issue IV

Tetrault plans to give president the cold shoulder

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College Faculty is planning to not attend the Inauguration of President Carwein on October 22 unless she shows evidence of trying to fix language in a proposed faculty contract.

"It's nothing personal," said Union Representative Dr. Gerry Tetrault of the Philosophy Department. "She is acting in her role and I'm acting in mine."

Along with not attending the inauguration, the faculty will abstain from any practices outside the current contract. This includes overloading classes.

"We are improving the quality of education, overloading erodes quality," said Tetrault. "Every time we overload, they screw us."

Tetrault had sent out an e-mail to all faculty and librarians that said, "Decline to even-give the appearance of bargaining away from the table by not socializing with management at picnics, retreats, junkets, or dinners."

Tetrault, a professor at Westfield for 38 years, says this is the best group of college presidents but the worst contract negotiations.

The faculty has currently been working under a contract that is two years old and has not received a pay increase in two years. Under the current proposed contract they would not receive a pay increase in the upcoming year as well.

The contract for the school is a collaboration of efforts with the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA), the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and the College of Presidents (CDP).

Westfield State, along with all other Massachusetts State Colleges, is 15% – 21% unpaid as compared to peer institutions.

"The BHE doesn't dare ask the Governor for more than one percent," said Tetrault. The BHE deals with the financial aspects of the contract. Money is not the main issue with the contract currently for the faculty according to Tetrault.

"It's been the position of the presidents office as well as all the state college presidents that they support the faculty in their efforts to get a raise," said Barry Maloney, Assistant to the President, on behalf of the President

"Language is more important than money," said Tetrault. The MSCA proposed a contract in October 2002 and the CDP responded fifteen months later in January 2004.

"When they did respond they did so with language that tore apart due process and governance," said Tetrault.

Union-Page 2

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Stellar defense is a staple of the Westfield State College soccer team.

Good Samaritan Law reviewed by SGA

By Meg Chevalier
Voice Reporter

ELY-At the September 21, 2004 meeting of the Student Government Association President Matt Curren announced Student Government's intent to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity trip during spring break. Habitat for Humanity, a non-profitable organization that builds houses for those who are in need, plan a trip every spring break to help a needy community and its people.

Although the costs and location are still yet to be decided, Curren said the main focus seems to be Florida, especially after this years devastating hurricane season. He said that the trip will be open to all students and they will be talking with Habitat for Humanity in the up coming weeks.

SGA-Page 2

'Thirsty Thursday' gets out of hand in Scanlon Hall

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

SCANLON HALL-Although the recent incident involving vomit in a Scanlon Hall hallway has gained attention as the first such incident this year, residential staff heads expect that damage charges for Scanlon Hall will remain relatively low.

"The [campus-wide] damage charges have been on a long downward trend which we hope will continue," said head of Residential Life Jon Conlogue.

Conlogue cites the low damage charges trend to the presence of the 5-5-50 alcohol violations policy that was put in place six years ago.

According to the Residential Director for Scanlon Hall, Lou Pelaggi, last year Scanlon Hall's damage charges amounted to less than fifteen dollars per person.

The incident, which occurred on the evening of Thursday, September 16, has been determined as being both alcohol and illness related, according to Pelaggi.

"Some alcohol was involved," Pelaggi acknowledged, "but they were sick."

"We do know who it was so they didn't need to come forward," said Pelaggi.

As to whether or not there will be harsher enforcement of the school's alcohol policy within Scanlon Hall or any of the other halls on campus, Pelaggi was doubtful.

"As far as putting more staff on, it wouldn't really prevent the problem," said Pelaggi.

Conlogue concurred Pelaggi's statement, saying that preventing further incidents "really has to be a community choice."

Conlogue emphasized that taking care of the buildings can be similar to a neighborhood crime watch, noting that there doesn't have to be a confrontation. He referred to an incident last year in which a metal beam over the bathroom stalls was ripped out of the wall.

Someone could call up public safety, Conlogue suggested, and say, "It sounds like someone is

Scanlon Hall-Page 3

One MacDonald gets the shaft, one McDonald has a blast

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Two Westfield State College (WSC) students, both Political Science majors, attended the Democratic National Convention this past summer in Boston.

Tim MacDonald and Bob McDonald used an opportunity put forth by the school through the Washington Center to see the convention first hand.

Both MacDonald and McDonald moved into Boston on the 18 of July and moved out on the 30. The convention itself was held July 26 thru July 29. The first week they were there was mostly classes said McDonald, "They definitely crammed a full semester of classes into two weeks."

Current issues were discussed and speakers addressed the students in the days preceding the convention.

One speaker, Govern or Mitt Romney spoke to a group of students that included MacDonald. After speaking about public education in Massachusetts MacDonald said, "I politely disagreed with him."

"He was talking about education, how Ted Kennedy does bad things for the poor," said MacDonald who described his disagreement as "affable". "I didn't want to make a bad name for the school."

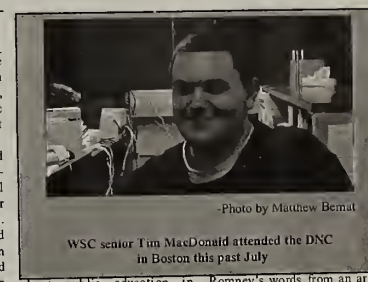
MacDonald said he had a copy of the 'Boston Globe' with him and used Romney's words from an article to contradict his statements to the group.

MacDonald said Romney didn't take any questions after his.

When the convention started MacDonald and MacDonald were given "volunteer placement" positions, a kind of short term internship.

"They told me I would be working at the 'Bill Clinton Golf

DNC-Page 3



-Photo by Matthew Bernat

WSC senior Tim MacDonald attended the DNC in Boston this past July

Phantom Planet plays NoHo
Read the review on page 11 for more

Got a light?
Here's one kid that wishes you didn't. Turn to page 7

Inside

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SGA

Vice President of Student

Life Colin Drury provided the Senate with information on the Good Samaritan Law in his report. The Good Samaritan Law will shield students who help a friend in distress from falling victim to the college's alcohol policies. The law is designed to prevent students from avoiding getting help for a friend who needs it out of fear that they will get a 5-5-50, said Drury. He concluded by stating that all Resident Assistants will be advised to have a meeting with their sections to go over this law.

Student Trustee Bob McDonald gave an information report on Governor Romney's veto of the retroactive pay raises meant for the AFSCME/APA unions. McDonald said that Student Government's response, if any, had yet to be determined.

Vice President of Programming Julie Swartwout discussed upcoming campus programming in her report. Casino Night will be October's main event. It will be held on Friday night, October 1 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. followed by Brown Bag Bingo, which will be held from 11 p.m. to 12 p.m.

The first Coffee House of the Year will be held Wednesday October 6, and it is booked for the entire evening. Anyone interested in performing should sign up for it next month, Swartwout said. Coffee Houses are always held on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Student Government Association wrapped up with New Business of the week announcing Senators of the Week. Senators Mike Lawler and Alex Snape were given Senator of the Week honors for their help at the September 16 Club Fair. Treasurer Kristine Miele was also given a Senator of the Week honor for organizing the Club Fair. "The Club Fair was a dying event," said McDonald, "but Kristine's efforts turned it around and made it the best club fair we have had in recent

Union

"If you lose governance and due process, why work here?"

Tetrault accuses the BHE of blackmailing the College of Presidents. "If the College of Presidents supports the faculty against the Board of Higher Education, they will be punished financially."

"All those pet projects, it's like blackmail…it's extortion. They use the Presidents fear as a weapon, as always." said Tetrault.

"If they could, they would turn these (public colleges) into charter colleges, the Board of Higher Education calls them 'Van Guard Colleges,' what's in a name?" said Tetrault.

"The ultimate power lies with the Governor," said Maloney in relation to approving a contract.

Governor Romney has recently vetoed $28.3 million in retroactive pay for the Higher Education Contracts.

Tetrault said on the attitude of the Faculty, "We are not happy, we're not getting paid, we are getting insulted."

The Faculty is also planning a "Day of Outrage" to be held on the Campus Green on September 29. While plans are not yet final for this protest, Tetrault is hoping for student support.

From the Editors Desk

Q. "How many political idealists does it take to change a lightbulb?"

A. "None, political idealists can't change s—"

Recently 'The Voice' sent a reporter to the see if Westfield State College Professor Gerald Healy would talk about his daughter who happens to work in the White House. I heard her office was either right next to or very close to that big Oval one they have there.

He declined. Which is unfortunate because what better voice to hear during an election year than of someone who works right next to an incumbent President. The only 'Voice' Healy concerned himself with was the one you hold in your hands right now.

Healy refused because he believes "The Voice" is much too liberal. Alright, we may be; inaccurate, belligerent, boring, horribly misspelled, a rag and I'm sure many other adjectives but liberal?! Come on, crack open our front page sometime and you'll see stories on campus bake sales, Circle K, fuzzy bunnies and even the newly formed Republican club.

You won't find stories on the vast right wing conspiracy to control the minds of average Americans, that the Communist party is ahead in the polls or how President Bush shirked his National Guard duties (oh wait, he did). The only agenda I'm concerned with pushing is making this paper one of the better ones this campus has seen. If it means throwing "Bush can kiss my black ass" to get people to open up this paper than that's what we'll do.

If the Ku Klux Klan wants to hold a cross burning rally on the green rest assured we'll give them plenty of coverage too. But I'm sure we'll find someway to give it a liberal slant, us liberals are shifty like that.

Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Class of 2008 Election Results

180 ballots cast

President:
Melissa Derby 85
Michael J. Calcasola 40
Patrick Logan 28
Thomas Gorman 26

Vice President:
Michael Primeau 115
Ross Hildonen 57

Treasurer:
Jessica Avery 107
Courtney Corbett 68

Secretary:
Sarah Odachowski 92
Laura Driscoll 83

Historian:
No Candidate*

Alumni Representative:
No Candidate*

Publicity Coordinator:
No Candidate*

Representatives to Senate (4 Positions):
Julie McNally 133
No Other Candidates *

*Write-in candidates need to achieve 20% of ballots cast to be considered. Write-ins that did not qualify are not listed.

Thumbs Up:

The Math Club's newest T-shirts: showing that even nerds have a sense of humor... our check is in the mail.

Thumbs Down:

Campus Flicks: We aren't knocking the movies, but its a bit difficult to watch them when the verticle hold is not holding. Consider yourself... served.

Scanlon Hall

busting up the bathroom. "They can make the call anonymously."

More importantly, students are encouraged to watch out for other students because "vomiting is a clear sign that they may be in danger."

"It's great if students can look out for the facilities, but it's more important to look out for each other," Conlogue said.

Conlogue also added, "I wish the drinking age were still 18, because it puts us in an adversarial position," saying that he'd "rather put more energy into [promotion of] safer alcohol use."

Important Spring 2005 Class Registration Information:

Spring 2005 Course Offerings Booklet on Campus:
Friday, October 15

Spring 2005 Registration Advising:
Monday, October 18 - Friday, November 12.

Spring 2005 Registration:
Monday - Friday November 15-19, online (9 am - 9 pm) and in Wilson 338 Lab (9 am - 4 pm).

REGISTRATION DATES BY CLASS LEVEL:
Seniors (at least 84 earned hours at end of Fall)
November 15
Juniors (at least 54 earned hours at end of Fall)
November 16
Sophomores (at least 24 earned hours at end of Fall)
November 17
Freshmen (less than 24 earned hours at end of Fall)
November 18
All levels
November 19.
Cynthia Siegler, Associate Registrar

DNC

Tournament'," said MacDonald. Turns out Clinton was only on the invited list, he never made an appearance and MacDonald "missed a lot of opportunities" because of it. MacDonald said, "No regrets, it was great."

> **"He was talking about education, how Ted Kennedy does bad things for the poor."**
>
> **Tim MacDonald**

McDonald's volunteer placement was with "Roll Call" a newspaper that is widely read among congressmen and known well on Capitol Hill, the newspaper mostly covers matters of interest to those who work in Washington.

McDonald previously interned on the Kerry campaign. "It was simultaneously the most exciting and the most boring internship," said McDonald.

His first day McDonald was introduced to the entire staff and then was told to "hang around until something happens." His first day was spent mostly reading newspapers until the associate editor of the newspaper, John Bresnahan, showed him around the Fleet Center, "He was a really cool guy, the standard Washington journalist. He promptly told me not to get into journalism," said McDonald.

McDonald's placement allowed some time inside the Fleet Center. Security was tight so the press pass that 'Roll Call' issued McDonald only allowed him daytime access. Even though he didn't see any of the major speeches live he still got to meet a lot of media personalities on the floor of the convention.

"Peter Jennings walked right past me, Stephen Colbert walked past me," said McDonald. McDonald said his second day at 'Roll Call' the Editor in Chief, Tim Curran, asked what he wanted to do. McDonald suggested shadowing a reporter and found himself covering the Ohio delegations breakfast the next day. "The reporter who was supposed to cover it had overslept," said McDonald. The keynote speaker was Jerry Springer.

McDonald described Springer as a "hardcore Democrat" who has been around politics for some time, he was elected Mayor of Cincinnati at the age of 33 in 1977. McDonald typed up a summary for the newspaper. "It wasn't used," he said.

McDonald's next assignment was to cover the Hilary Clinton speech to the New York delegation. McDonald said he had the best time at that event, he spoke to a writer for the New York Daily news, "he was a quirky little guy," After the event McDonald said he had become a fan of Hilary. He said her enthusiasm and commitment seemed genuine.

The absolute highlight of the New York breakfast was the opportunity for McDonald to meet one actor he admires, Steve Buscemi of Reservoir Dogs and numerous other films.

After 9/11 Buscemi worked 12 hour shifts at ground zero. Before becoming an actor Buscemi was a firefighter in New York.

Another celebrity whose show "can do no wrong" in McDonald's eyes actually held the door open for him. "I was walking into the Fleet Center and this guy, about my height, had a raincoat on and baseball cap on. I turned to say thank you and it was Jon Stewart," said MacDonald. "All I could say was 'Thanks I dig your show."

McDonald said the convention was important for Kerry because at that point people had to "stop hating Bush and start liking Kerry."

On WSC's campus McDonald said the amount of political talk was surprising even though we're not the type of campus that will hang signs.

"We have a hugely active political science department for its size," said McDonald. The re-activation of the schools Republican club has caused some talk on campus. "I would love to start a Democrat club," said MacDonald.

"I'm just really grateful to the school for giving me the chance to go," said McDonald.

Just the Facts: Tim McDonald

Favorite Political Book: *Stupid White Men* Michael Moore

Favorite Political Movie: The Manchurian Candidate (1962)

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite T.V. Show: Law & Order

Who would win in a fight; John Kerry or George Bush?
-"Bush because he fights dirty."

Voice of the Week

Rachel Sweeney
Danielle Mainini

Role at WSC: Volleyball team

Number of Years at WSC: 3

Favorite Thing About WSC: Being the first sport to play and win in the new athletic facility.

Favorite Thing to Do on Campus: Watching the Pats on Sunday and the Red Sox games.

Favorite Movie: Blue Collar Comedy Tour

Favorite T.V. Show: Roseanne

Favorite Quote: "It's not worth winning if you don't win big." -Mighty Ducks

Compiled by: Amy Cirrone

Seen on the Green

-Photo by David Pageau

Harry Stessel, an english professor on sabbatical while he writes and edits a book of poetry, walks his dog Robbie in front of the Ely Campus Center because he fears for his and Robbie's safety. There have been reports of bears and foxes in his neighborhood.

The Discover Westfield Children's Museum

is in the process of fundraising to build a new museum! As a result, they are offering Six Flags tickets for only $10, good for Columbus Day, October 11, 2004. This is only 25 % of the standard price and is available soley through the museum. All proceeds benefit the DWCM. For more information or to order tickets, call the museum at (413)572-4014!

Voices Overheard

What are your feelings on Taco Bell becoming Quixotes?

Dena Welch
2006
General Science

"I heard they use onions in their tacos. I don't know if that's a good thing, but I'm willing to try it. I'm a big taco fan."

Jay Pazik Nick Zyla
2007
Business History

"'Team Bitches Please' (intramural 3 on 3 basketball) is pissed their pre-game restraunt is no longer accesible to their needs."

Sarah King
Kim Wheeler
Cathleen Clough
2005

"Miras a Quixotes for some taco lovin'!"

Joe Connor
2008
Undeclared

"I think they should put some other fast food place in. Wendy's would be good."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

Degon's Custom T's

Quality silk screened goods

Corey W. Degon

P.O. Box 306
Three Rivers, MA 10180

Phone: 413-433-0489
Fax: 413-283-8257
E-mail: degonscustomts@yahoo.com
Website: www.degonscustomts.com

Kerry at Ease on Talk Shows

BY ROGER CAITLIN
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Both 2004 presidential candidates appeared prominently on TV Tuesday morning.

President Bush gave an address before the United Nations carried live by the major broadcast networks and cable news operations.

A few blocks away in New York, his opponent John Kerry answered the earnest inquiry of Kelly Ripa.

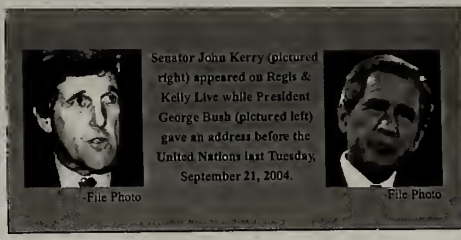
"My big question," she said after a commercial break: "Don't you think Tom Cruise could play John Edwards in the movie?"

It will be left to voters which approach will be more effective.

Political campaigning in recent years has meant more candidate stops at entertainment talk shows than on news shows. Both Bush and his previous opponent, Al Gore, appeared on the "Late Show With David Letterman" in 2000, meeting the man who had made them butts of his jokes all season. Similarly undaunted, they both also asked to be part of a "Saturday Night Live" political special just before the election.

Bush has yet to book a date on Letterman this season, but Kerry made his debut there Monday as part of an early-week blitz that also included the Tuesday morning stop at "Live With Regis & Kelly." Kerry had already made a stop at "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" last month and made his greatest late-night impact by riding a motorcycle onto the set of "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" before primary season last November.

Kerry and his wife sat with Dr. Phil on Saturday in Boston for a show that will be broadcast Oct. 6. President and Laura Bush sat with the talk-show host in July for a program that is scheduled for broadcast Sept. 29. It's not as if Bush has been entirely avoiding entertainment programs. He tore himself away from presidential duties in April to tape a whole episode of "Fishing With Roland Martin" that ran on the Outdoor Life Network last month.



Senator John Kerry (pictured right) appeared on Regis & Kelly Live while President George Bush (pictured left) gave an address before the United Nations last Tuesday, September 21, 2004.

-File Photo -File Photo

For Kerry's appearances this week, the candidate has endeavored to appear relaxed and smiling until he was asked some serious questions (which on Regis happened once). On both shows, his banter demonstrated either some quick thinking or some planning by his staff.

Kerry made a point of referring to earlier jokes made in the program on Letterman, just as he had on "The Daily Show."

Approaching pandering to the large, loyal "Regis & Kelly" audience, Kerry also said, "For my undecided voters, i have five words: Secretary of State Regis Philbin."

The host responded in his bombastic manner, "Is he charming or WHAT?"

While on Letterman, Kerry quipped that one of the provisions of the just-completed negotiations for presidential debates meant "George Bush is going to sit on Dick Cheney's lap." For Regis he revised the joke. "The big hang-up was George Bush wanted to get a lifeline system," referring to "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?," the game show Philbin hosts.

For all the political import of the "Regis & Kelly" appearance, Kerry was given just 12 minutes; actor Gary Sinise and golf star Tiger Woods were still waiting to come on. Still, the candidate's appearance had to wait until after the Wild Wheel Travel Trivia segment, details about Philbin's appearance on the John McEnroe show, and a viewing of a potato that looks like a duck, sent in by a viewer.

Ripa greeted the presidential candidate by saying, "You're so handsome!"

There wasn't a lot of substance there.

Letterman, on the other hand, fancies himself capable of a serious discussion when warranted, and so he grilled the candidate on a handful of more serious issues while not backing down on the regular monologue ribbing. It may have been more gravity than Kerry expected, but he responded with stump speech excerpts that seemed freshly tailored to calls for brevity and impact.

But when Kerry came up with his rather ftat Top 10 Bush Tax Proposals that he had prepared with "Late Show" writers, the delivery wasn't quite up to par. The rhythm was off, he wouldn't read the numbers and didn't milk the drum roll. Worse, the snot of him flinging the card into the back window, as Letterman often does, wasn't immediately caught on camera.

Poor Indian Housing Leads To Health Problems

BY MARY FITZGERALD
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--Rachel Joseph has seen entire Native American families living in one room, children huddled in housing so poorly insulated that shafts of light could be seen through the flimsy wooden walls.

Now a report by the National American Indian Housing Council highlights what Joseph, chairwoman of the Lone Pine Paiute Tribe in California, has known all along, that substandard and overcrowded housing contributes to a plethora of health, social and family problems within her community.

Joseph, co-chairwoman of the national steering committee for reauthorization of the Indian Health Care ImprovementAct, says the federal govemment has, over decades, failed to address the needs of Native Americans.

"What do we have to do for our voices to be heard?" she said at a news conference to release the housing report.

While proposing a multifaceted approach toward solving the housing crisis, the NAIHC said the federal govemment has a trust responsibility to support tribal development. The organization called for federal legislation to create a block grant for infrastructure funding.

"Very few places in our nation have children hurting as much as on our Indian reservations," Carl said. "It is up to the federal govemment to uphold the trust responsibility--an obligation it has made to tribes through treaties and laws--and make good on promises ratified centuries ago. We, as Native people, will also continue to work together to make a better life for our children."

The survey of 246 NAIHC housing authority members found that 59 percent of respondents reported overcrowded housing on their reservation, and 83 percent described housing as substandard, with problems such as inadequate insulation, lack of proper sewage treatment, mold and lack of clean water.

A total of 94 percent indicated such poor conditions affected tribal members' health and the well-being of their children, linking an increase in cases of colds, ftu and skin disorders to overcrowding and substandard housing.

Almost 90 percent of the respondents said poor housing contributed to social problems such as alcoholism and abuse.

> **"The government spends $3,803 per inmate per year compared with $1,914 per Native American. That's a crime."**
>
> **-Carl**

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights last year published a study that estimated 200,000 new housing units are needed to ease the housing crisis in Indian Country.

The civil rights commission study had found that 14.7 percent of the dwellings in tribal areas are overcrowded. It reported about 90,000 Native American families are homeless or lack adequate housing.

"Native Americans living on reservations have some of the worst housing conditions in the United States," Carl said. "Native Americans are three times more likely to live in overcrowded housing. Native Americans are more likely than other Americans to have a lack of sewage and water systems, telephone lines and electricity."

The NAIHC report compared the amount spent by the federal government on health care for prisoners to the funds allocated to Indian communities.

"The government spends $3,803 per inmate per year compared with $1,914 per Native American. That's a crime," Carl said. "The federal govemment has not done its share."

Of particular concern was the effect of overcrowding on Indian children, said Deborah Cutler-Ortiz of the Children's Defense Fund.

More than 80 percent of those surveyed for the NAIHC report raised concems that physical and psychological difficulties arising from poor housing were hampering Native American children's educational progress.

"Failure to address these interwoven issues will only assure the continued cycle of hardship faced by American Indian children," Cutler-Ortiz said.

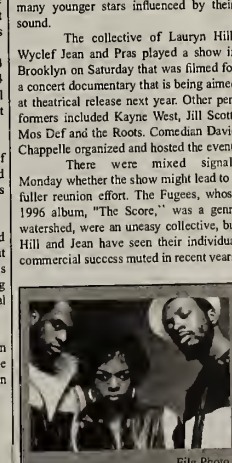
Fugees Reunite for Concert Film

BY GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Fugees, the trio that released only two studio albums but became a signature influence on hip-hop and neo-soul music, reunited over the weekend for a New York performance that also featured many younger stars influenced by their sound.

The collective of Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean and Pras played a show in Brooklyn on Saturday that was filmed for a concert documentary that is being aimed at theatrical release next year. Other performers included Kayne West, Jill Scott, Mos Def and the Roots. Comedian David Chappelle organized and hosted the event.

There were mixed signals Monday whether the show might lead to a fuller reunion effort. The Fugees, whose 1996 album, "The Score," was a genre watershed, were an uneasy collective, but Hill and Jean have seen their individual commercial success muted in recent years.



-File Photo

The Fugees reunited for a concert in New York City on Saturday, September 18, 2004.

AFLAC Duck Is No M&M Fan

By Roy Rivenburg
Los Angeles Times

They melt in your mouth, not on the campaign trail. In a nationwide election to choose America's favorite product mascot, the M&M characters finished first with 22 percent of the vote, followed by the AFLAC duck, Mr. Peanut, the Pillsbury Doughboy and Tony the Tiger.

The results were announced Monday by the American Association of Advertising Agencies, which sponsored the vote to promote its convention this week. As part of the festivities, a mascot motorcade rolled through New York City on Monday.

Roughly 630,000 votes were cast in the online poll.

The AFLAC duck led in early balloting but faded after the voting deadline was extended. Actor Gilbert Gottfried, who supplies the duck's voice in TV ads, said: "This is like the Bush-Gore election. There should be an investigation."

-File Photo

Following the M&M characters, the AFLAC duck came in second place in an election that chose America's favorite product mascot.

Presumed U.S. Hostage Beheaded in Web Site Video

By Ashraf Khalil
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A grisly video posted on the internet Monday depicted the execution and beheading of a hostage identified by militants as American construction contractor Eugene "Jack" Armstrong. If confirmed, the killing would represent the latest in a spate of kidnappings and executions targeting foreigners in Iraq.

U.S. military officials in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, claimed to have no knowledge of Armstrong's whereabouts, but a U.S. official in Washington told The Associated Press that his body had been recovered.

Armstrong, along with another American, Jack Hensley, and Kenneth Bigley, a British worker, was abducted last week from their home in a wealthy Baghdad neighborhood. The three employees of Gulf Services company appeared Saturday in televised video footage in which their captors demanded the release of all female prisoners in U.S.-run jails, setting a 48-hour deadline that expired Monday.

Armstrong's apparent slaying occurred on another bloody day in Iraq, in which an American soldier and two prominent Sunni clerics were slain in separate incidents. A car bomb in Mosul and U.S. air strikes in the insurgent hotbed of Fallujah claimed the lives of at least 10 Iraqis. More than 300 people have died in insurgent attacks and U.S. strikes this month.

The video, which could not be independently verified, shows a man who appeared to be Armstrong wearing an orange jumpsuit and seated on the floor in front of five masked men, one of whom read a statement vowing to restore the honor of female prisoners.

The men then held down the struggling hostage as their leader used a knife to saw through his neck. The severed head was placed on top of the body. Later, one member of the group held up the head in front of the black flag of Tawhid wa Jihad, the insurgent group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab Zarqawi.

The kidnappings of Armstrong and his colleagues sent shudders through the large expatriate community.

The kidnappings of Armstrong and his colleagues sent shudders through the large expatriate community. Many kidnapping victims have been snatched by gunmen while traveling on the unsecured roads between major cities. But kidnappers have grown increasingly bold. On September 7, two female Italian aid workers were abducted from their central Baghdad office. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

On Monday, militants killed two members of the Muslim Scholars Association, or MSA, a staunch opponent of the U.S. occupation and the interim Iraqi government. Sheik Jadoa Janabi was gunned down as he entered a Baghdad mosque to perform midday prayers. His colleague, Sheik Janabi Zaidi, was found dead in front of another mosque after being kidnapped by gunmen the previous evening. Earlier in the day, gunmen released two of Zaidi's associates who had been kidnapped with the cleric.

Both Zaidi and Janabi were attacked outside Sunni mosques in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods. No group has claimed responsibility for the clerics' killings, but the list of suspects is long -- given Iraq's ethnic and religious division.

There have been revenge killings of Sunni and Shiite clerics for much of the past year, but it remains unclear whether the latest slayings are the beginning of a larger campaign against the MSA and its members.

The group has emerged as a major advocate for the country's Sunni minority, which has dominated Iraq for most of this century but lost much of their privileges with the U.S. overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government. Sunnis now find themselves pitted against the nation's Shiites and Kurds.

The MSA consistently has rallied opposition to U.S. forces and interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's government. It has boycotted initiatives such as the recent National Congress, claiming that any participation with the interim government was meaningless as long as foreign troops remain in Iraq.

The MSA has also served as a controversial but effective go-between in negotiations for foreigners taken hostage. Several foreign hostages have been released at the MSA's headquarters in Baghdad's massive Umm al Qura mosque.

Critics have charged that the MSA is heavily involved in both the insurgency and the ongoing kidnappings. But an MSA leader, Sheik Ahmed Abdel Ghafour, in an interview last week, denied any direct links to hostage takers. He described the MSA as honest brokers with "a lot of credibility" with opponents of the occupation -- a status he said it uses to lobby on behalf of foreign hostages.

Elsewhere in Iraq, insurgents killed a U.S. soldier when they attacked a 1st Infantry Division patrol near Ash Sharqat, north of Baghdad. A military spokesman said the name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

In the northern city of Mosul, a car bomb killed three people while militants reportedly released 18 Iraqi National Guard soldiers who had been held overnight.

In the rebel stronghold of Fallujah, a pair of U.S. air strikes killed seven and wounded five, according to local hospital officials.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Critisizes Effort to Promote Democracy in Middle East

By Glenn Kessler
The Washington Post

UNITED NATIONS--Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit criticized the Bush administration's maiden effort to promote democracy in the Middle East, saying Monday that some Arab countries were snubbed and other countries attending the meeting should not have been invited.

The session, dubbed the "Forum for the Future," will be held Friday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly and will include key officials from a number of countries, including Secretary of State Colin Powell. The forum was established during the June summit of the Group of Eight industrialized countries, hosted by President Bush, and is intended to be a high-profile example of Bush's effort to prod countries in what the administration dubs the "broader Middle East" to embrace democracy.

In an interview at Egypt's U.N. mission, Gheit complained that the administration did not invite such Arab countries as Libya and Syria, while including non-Arab countries such as Turkey and Afghanistan. "Apples and oranges," he said dismissively.

Egypt, a key U.S. ally whose president has held power for nearly a quarter-century, has been wary of the project from the beginning. Turkey has a flourishing democracy, while Afghanistan is struggling to hold its first presidential election next month.

"They might think that Turkey might be a model for a number of Arab countries to follow," Gheit said. He then added with a burst of laughter: "With Afghanistan, maybe they want to teach the Afghans how to pursue our own model. I think we are at least 200 years in advance of Afghanistan. The social and economic development of Egypt is by far a century or two ahead of Afghanistan."

A senior State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the countries attending the forum were a "self-selecting group" because the initiative is designed to support what countries were already doing to improve their societies. "This is broader than just Arab countries," he said, adding that "it was not exclusionary but as inclusionary as possible."

Gheit said the meeting should focus on G-8 countries and the entire Arab world. "We are initiating only the first meeting of a process," he said. "Whether it will be taken seriously or not remains to be seen."

Y Chromosomes Contain Clues to Genetic Mystery

By William Hathaway
The Hartford Courant

Geneticists have returned to an old observation to explain new evidence about the migration of human beings across the globe: Some men really get around.

But many other men aren't as successful with women, which may help explain some puzzling discrepancies in estimates about the age of modern humans, scientists speculate in the October issue of Nature Genetics.

The researchers were interested in why there are relatively few variations of the male Y chromosome in different populations, indicating that the common ancestor of all modern men lived about 100,000 years ago. The estimate makes little sense because mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down only through the female line, has more variations and appears to be much older. The age of the ancestral "Eve" is estimated to be about 200,000 years.

Researchers at the University of Arizona wanted to test a theory that some beneficial mutation on the Y chromosome had swept the globe at a more recent date, making the modern male chromosome appear younger. Geneticists tested Y chromosome DNA and mitochondrial DNA from three far-flung populations -- the Khosian of southern Africa, Khalks of Mongolia and highland Papua New Guineans. If some beneficial mutation of the male chromosome had suddenly appeared and been preserved on the Y chromosome, the geneticists expected that the age of the common male ancestor would be similar in the different populations.

But that is not what they found. Instead, the age of common male ancestors varied significantly among the three groups. The researchers say the lower number of variations in the Y chromosome can be explained because a lower percentage of men have had children than women. The fewer men who father children, the fewer variants are preserved on the Y chromosome, they said.

"The norm through human evolution is for more women to have children than men," said Jason Wilder, a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona and lead author on two related genetic studies. "There are men around who aren't able to have children because they are being out-competed by more successful males.

"Trophy wives" and second families sired by economically successful males are the modern variant of the ancient pattern, they said.

Opinion

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

As you mentioned in your September 20th issue, the Taco Bell Express in the Commuter Lounge area had been replaced by Sodexho's Quixote's. Like many others, I was interested in why the change occured. As reported by Sodexho, Taco Bell bailed out because of financial concerns. In addition, Sodexho promises to raise the bar in this type of cuisine by being able to provide their own food which will be of higher quality, whatever that means. I am sure those of you who have never experienced the true flavor of home-made Tex-Mex food will continue to get a taco or burrito from this campus establishment.

The idea of change is good and I applaud Sodexho for keeping this type of food venue available to the campus. My main concern stems from the way Sodexho has chosen to market this remake of the Taco Bell Express. Someone should have told them that the "Fuito Bandito" as a marketing tool that died back in the day. The depiction of a Latino male with a sombrero, draped with a serape and along black mustache on their Quixote's sign is an offensive stereotype to many Latinos especially someone like myself of Mexican-American descent.

I would hope that in a place of higher learning where we educate students about stereotypes and their negative impact on groups of people that we would know that this type of marketing is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. I would like to see Westfield State College have Sodexho reconsider how they market their Quixote's restaurant and change their signage. So in conclusion "yo no quiem Quixote's!!"

- Aurelio H. Sanchez Jr.
Assistant Director, Office of
Minority Affairs/Urban Education

To the Editors:

If David Machnik is right, and Heaven is filled with the souls of people who think as he does, I'd certainly choose to spend eternity in The Other Place--if not for the climate then for the more congenial and stimulating company. And if God indeed condemns to eternal damnation everyone who doesn't agree with Mr. Machnik's beliefs, I can think of only three possible explanations: (1) He has gotten very confused in His old age; (2) He has one very weird sense of cosmic humor; or (3) He is being advised by top officials in the Bush Administration.

- Michael Engel
Recent retiree

Got a light?

"THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GEORGE"
BY BILL GEORGE
VOICE COLUMNIST

Don't you just love sucking down a cigarette? After a long day of classes, the sun is beginning to set and you just feel like standing outside on a beautiful, crisp fall evening. You pull out your pack of Marlboro's and hit it on the bottom trying to knock out a loosey to put over your ear the same way that kid from high school, Milton, would put a pencil over his just in case of a pop quiz. Then you whip out your personalized Zippo with the words, "The World Is Yours" engraved on the side. You cover your lighter to protect it from the breeze, spark up and take in that first puff. Don't you just love that feeling you get? That rush? That relief? And at that moment, the nanosecond between holding your breath and letting it all out, you are at peace with the world and all of God's creations.

Wait... are you nodding? Are you kidding me? I was joking around! Are you nuts?! It makes your teeth and fingernails yellow, your breath awful and all your clothes smell. What is wrong with you? How could you do something so disgusting?

But I digress. The reason I bring it up is that I didn't realize until recently there were so many smokers on campus. The mommate questionnaire should be changed from "Smoking or Non-smoking" to "Filtered or Non-Filtered." I also noticed that they hangout in packs like wolves. And like canines, we should strap electric collars on them with the invisible trigger set to shock them when they get within 25 feet from all the campus buildings. Frankly the "25 feet" rule gets about as much consideration from the student body as *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle: The Director's Cut* will get from the Academy.

I was walking outside Scanlon the other day and it looked like the fifteen minute break of an AA meeting. A gang of Virginia Slims and Joe Camels sitting around puffing away like there's no tomorrow... which for them is not far from the truth. Its almost sad knowing that one out of ten of them will die from a smoke related disease. But at the same time I figure, "Hey, this planet is overpopulated anyway. More social security money for me." I mean, if these smokers are dumb enough to willingly inhale carcinogens regularly, all I can do is give them some advice I got from a poem: "Go gently into that good night"... something like that.

Overpopulation will be stemmed more by the rarely known fact that smoking cigarettes can cause infertility in women and sometimes men. So gentlemen, remember that fact while you slowly witness your nice, long, cigarette slowly shrink and curl down until it falls away into nothingness.

If you are a smoker by this age, then you are already set in your ways just like a third of the male population on this planet. I won't change your mind by throwing medical stats at you, but as a poor, lowly college student who cannot even afford to try to wash that vile stench out of your now "off-white" load, maybe you'll listen to me on financial matters. The average smoker spends $3,000 a year on smokes. I bet that statistic caught your blood-shot eye. That's a whole lot of money being thrown away that could go toward a good cause... like Subway.

Okay, enough of that, I'm not here to convert you. I'm here to ask all you smokers something: could you be more respectful? Show some common courtesy. When you get to an elevator, you let people get off before you get on. Similarly, when you decide to slowly off yourself with butts, you go across the street. The rule is 25 feet from the building just like the signs out there distinctly say (but I guess I shouldn't expect much reading from the same people who refuse to acknowledge the surgeon general's words written right on the home of their "little friends.")

I have friends with dorms in Scanlon adjacent to the front walkway and just by visiting them I'm already up to second-hand smoking a pack a day. It has gotten so bad, that we leave the micmwave door open and crank her up for some preventative radiation therapy. If I wanted to be killed slowly without even realizing it, I'd be a business major. I do not need a group of girls three floors down on the street who refer to themselves as the "Nicotinas" yapping about the *OC*'s new time slot fitting into their schedule and how they could only afford Kool's today because it was a slow week at Hooter's. Meanwhile, they are knocking five minutes per cigarette off the total span of their pathetic lives without realizing that in the process, they are plugging up my lungs with tar that is getting shot out of their death-sticks only to float right into the window next to my face while I'm trying to sit back and sing along with the opening credits of *The Apprentice*! Speaking of which: Bradford?! But I digress...

If you have any column suggestions for me such as a movie or videogame to review, a question you want me to answer or a topic you want me to fly off the handle about, feel free to email me at: wgeorge0149@wsc.ma.edu

Alcohol's expenditure of individuality

"CAMPUS COMMENTARY"
BY SARAH CAGAN
VOICE COLUMNIST

As the new school year begins, students pour in at the anticipation of parties and a fruitful sex life. As an incoming freshmen, I find a more observatory view of the social habits that people absorb as they take on the "college" persona. Why is it when people get freedom from home they feel it best to get together and stupefy themselves so completely? The fundamentals of college consist of bringing yourself to a higher level of intellectual being; at least that concept initiated the establishment. Instead it is more of a social frenzy bombarded with intoxicating substances. Now, I am not opposed to letting loose every once in a while, but I do feel there is a line and the majority of students here amble across it much too frequently. What is it that constrains students to destructing their minds, consequently delivering themselves into the college student stereotype? There is a point in which their state of being becomes cliche and individuals become the minority. When an individual drinks, they obliterate their originality. They just become another one of the inebriated, an overpopulated crowd as it is. They just blur into the crowd.

I am not trying to say there are those who cannot manage to enjoy festivities as well as get their work done, but eventually it will catch up to you. Honestly, is there a point where you party so hard you can't remember it? People often find black outs and such other lack of memories humorous, but where is the reasoning? You might as well have done nothing at all for all the rewards that drunken stupors emanate. I am not trying to sound like an uptight mother figure; I just don't understand the way that these social goers think.

In this country we have the gift of freedom, which should be used to better your life and equip yourself to take on bigger things then a shot of Bacardi 151. Though this isn't an Ivy League school, it is still more then capable of lending a hand in taking charge of our own life. We are left with the choice on whether or not to take advantage of this. Those who choose to carry on with this intoxicated lifestyle are deluding themselves into thinking this is a legit way to live their life. Eventually the four years will be up, five for some, and people will have to deal with loans as well as mental repercussions. Just like the lost high school football stars, these people will lack a niche to fall into; instead, they will dwell on the glory days they can barely remember. Why not make a choice for yourself and not be that stereotypical person; try being an individual.

The Voice

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THE VOICE
PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Plastic cup politics

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

The mass media has a bad habit that they're not willing to drop. It gets fed a slew of sugar-coated stories and it cannot help itself from regurgitating the White House's vague reports. The mistake it makes leaves the average American missing out on what's really going on in the world. Now, we are bombarded with stories about Kerry and Bush and the fight over whose war record is more accurate. Jon Stuart summed it up nicely, "Bush didn't show up enough and Kerry didn't get shot enough." Recently, Dan Rather and the entire CBS network have come under scrutiny for questioning how Bush obtained such a cushy position in the Texas National Guard. There were documents that supported their claim but now the source has become "unverified" and Dan Rather was forced to apologize on his show, CBS Evening News. Back in 2002, Rather appeared on a British television network and revealed his true feelings about the current state of the media. "What is going on, I'm sorry to say, is a belief that the public doesn't need to know – limiting access, limiting information to cover the backsides of those who are in charge of the war. It's extremely dangerous and cannot and should not be accepted." The American people, however, are more than willing to gobble up whatever hot story the 5 o'clock news is eager to dish out, while the important stories remain under the radar.

Currently, a hotly debated story that has been denied a spot on the evening news is the potential vacancies that will open up on the Supreme Court. The next President of the United States has an opportunity to appoint three new justices and change the pace of the decisions made and to be made. Rehnquist, O'Connor, and Stevens have all reached the age at which retirement starts to sound like a good idea. O'Connor is the youngest at 74, and is a swing vote on some of the more social issues such as abortion. Stevens, although a Republican, is one of the more liberal justices who was appointed by President Ford in 1975. Chief Justice Rehnquist is 79 and sides with the more conservative Justices Scalia and Thomas. If all three step down during the next Administration, the President could potentially mold the Supreme Court to however he chooses.

If Bush gets elected, you can be assured that he will choose ultra-right conservatives and this could pose a threat to the Roe v. Wade decision that was handed down over 31 years ago. Since both Stevens and O'Connor were two of the six justices that voted in favor of the decision, those vacancies could be a weakness that could be exploited. The Christian Coalition, Bush and Cheney's favorite grassroots organization, has made it their mission in recent years to overturn the historic decision and Bush would be in the perfect position to make the CC happy. By appointing three conservative justices and pairing them with the two votes of Scalia and Thomas, the conservatives could potentially dominate all of the decisions. Also, the Republicans domination in Congress would help ensure the Bush agenda gets pushed through.

If Kerry gets elected, pro-choice and other liberals can breathe a sigh of relief because the moderate Democrat has stated in the past as supporting Roe v. Wade. It does not necessarily ensure that liberal justices would be appointed but it does mean that Bush-supported conservatives won't be taking the bench.

Why does this matter so much? Considering the average term of a Supreme Court Justice lasts for more than a quarter of a century, appointing three new Justices in the next term could change the nature of everyday American life for a long time. Controversial social issues such as the death penalty, gun control, war, separation of church and state, and freedom of speech could all take on a more conservative tone. Although it has been its importance has been watered down in the mainstream media, don't be so quick to dismiss this issue. In fact, add it to the list of reasons and go "rock the vote" on November 2nd..

Editors note:
The staff would like to apologize to Ms. Spiecher for the mispelling of her last name in last week's edition.

The truth about *Truth*

BY PETE NORWOOD
VOICE COLUMNIST

When I opened up last week's issue of The Voice, I was pleased to see someone trying to spread the word of their God. This is one of those issues for which my column was named. For the purposes of clarity, let me first state that I do not disagree with what I thought was the basic message behind the article entitled "Truth." I agree that truth is not relative, that it is instead unchangeable. Otherwise, why would we bother calling it truth? Why not call it ambiguity? However, the message I was left with went something like this: "Blah, blah, God, blah, blah."

Religion is such a funny thing. As long as we're talking about religion and truth together, let's investigate why it is that truth and religion belong together. Fact: God is the leading cause of death, oppression and persecution. This has remained a "truth" since man first conceived the idea that something more powerful than He must have created Him. This legacy of death, given to us by the Holy One began countless ages ago. For reference, however, keep in mind the Crusades, the Salem Witch Hunts, and even the Holocaust. I am in no way blaming God for these incidents, because to do so, I would first have to acknowledge his or her existence.

Since I do not accept something as truth unless I know that it is empirically based, I will acknowledge no such thing. The Jesus thing, what can I say about this? Not simply to offend, but even if God did come down in the flesh as Jesus Christ, I really couldn't care less. So he sacrificed himself to absolve the sins of humankind, a lot of good that did. There have been countless sins since then and there will be countless sins until the end of mankind. Why is this, I wonder? Oh yeah, because along with the idea of a God, the concept of sins were made up by humans so they could feel justified in committing the many treacheries they commit every day. Many people have sacrificed themselves for the "greater good" and for what? The world today is worse than it has ever been, and here's a hint: it isn't getting any better.

I say all of this without the fear of going to hell (which sounds nice right now. .. I'm cold!) because I know something that many religious folk refuse to believe. When you die, it's over. There's nothing grand about it. No heaven, no hell, just a complete lack of being. Since I believe this, I can forget about sins and temptations and all their consequences and just live my life the way I want to.

We still have government, they tell us what is right and wrong; maybe government is God. I say this to assure those whom I am sure will be condemning me to hell right about now that I still do have some sense of morality. Don't kill things, don't steal, don't cheat and don't lie. Come to think of it, these are all things that my mom taught me since I was a little boy; maybe she is God. So, super Christians, go ahead and damn me to hell. Maybe I'm wrong, if I am, I'm sure I'll see half of you there, anyway. At least on my way there I will respect everyone and everything I meet as opposed to blindly calling random groups of people sinners and condemning them to hell for existing the way they do.

Veritas

"HOPE"
BY DAVID MACHNIK
VOICE COLUMNIST

When I was thinking about something for my column, I thought about last weekend I went to a state college with a friend of mine. We had an awesome time, despite him blowing out a tire on his car and the rain Friday night. Actually, we drove through an area that had flooding all over. We got through without a problem though, thanks to the Lamb of God. To give you more of an idea as to the extent of it besides entire highway exits being closed due to flooding, when we were campaigning, we talked to a lot of people on hills that had flooded basements.

I was in Pennsylvania when I kept on seeing hopeless people everywhere. The depression that they had was so thick and palatable, you could cut it with a knife. They tried to hide and relieve their depression in various ways. Smoking was one of theses ways. I have nothing against someone having something to smoke every once and a while, as long as what they are smoking is legal, but they did it as an escape, to try and feel better, and you know what? It failed. Looking at them before they smoked a hookah and after, they are just as lost and hopeless. Some people put up a fake front of happiness that was doing a good job masking their pain, but masks have holes. As happy as they acted, they said that they had thought about ending their lives just one-week prior. Parties full of alcohol were another means of escape. People got drunk all over the place and were just as empty and hopeless.

There is emptiness in the life of everyone that cannot be filled with drugs, alcohol, sex, work, pranks, sports, music, eating, or religion. The only way that emptiness - that hopelessness - will every leave is with Jesus Christ. If you try to fill the hopeless void in you life with alcohol, you will just have drunken night after drunken night and never get anywhere. You can have sexual encounter after sexual encounter, but you will never be satisfied. The world is a bleak, dark place full of pain, but there is hope in Jesus. There is a blessed hope in Jesus coming back for his people and catching them up in the clouds with him (rapture) before the wrath that is to come. You will never feel much less than whole until you give you life to Jesus and invite him in. Being hopeless is a choice you have because accepting Jesus is a choice you have. You may be in a lot of pain in your life and are going through a hard time or just feel like there is something missing in your life. In either case you only have to turn to Jesus. There is a way to be whole. As easy as it is, you will find nothing in your life that you have ever done or will ever do that's more challenging than living your life for the one true and living God.

A deal is a deal

"A NICKEL'S WORTH"
BY BOB MCDONALD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For those of you who do not know, the AFSCME (Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees) and APA (Association of Professional Administrators) unions, who include a large number of the people that run our campus, went into collective bargaining way back in 2001. An agreement was finally reached that included a pay raise. The problem is, those raises were never funded. For the past three years, the state has been in breach of contract.

In the three years that administrators have been denied their agreed upon raise, there has not been one day of lost work, nor has one day of classes been canceled due to a strike. Those who have been denied their rightfully agreed upon raises have continued to work based on their commitment to the college, it's students, and its mission.

Finally, after intensive lobbying efforts on behalf of both the unions and the upper level administration (the President and Board of Trustees from Westfield often lent their support to the cause), the legislature finally found a way to give the employees what was rightfully theirs. The line items were approved and sent to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

In the end Mr. Romney vetoed these items. The official reason, as cited in the September 18, 2004 Boston Globe was that Romney "could not tolerate paying retroactive pay raises to state employees while the legislature refuses to honor a 2000 ballot initiative that called on lawmakers to reduce the income tax rate to five percent [from its current rate of 5.3 percent]."

This action bothers me for several reasons. First, it sets a rather dangerous precedent for the state's interaction with public employee unions. The unions' slogan during this ordeal was "A Deal's A Deal." One should be surprised that a business oriented person like Mr. Romney does not understand the binding nature of a contract.

The decisions unfair nature irritates me. However, what truly angers me was my discovery in the same Globe article that while Mr. Romney could not find the money to fund the overdue contracts of hard working public higher education employees, he could find $21.6 million for a funding formula for charter schools. This is clearly a case of politics over policy and a blatant slap in the face for all public education employees.

Charter schools are a vicious cycle that is designed to weaken the public education system. While there are lauded as the solution to under-performing public schools, charter schools exacerbate the problem by stretching funding that normally would only go to public schools. Their results are varied at best. Funding one and not the other is obviously more about marketing Mr. Romney's political skills and less about whether or not such a move will benefit students.

Returning to the issue at hand, I am also further angered by the fact that while the union contracts are still not being honored, Mr. Romney did approve and fund raises for those in management positions. Whether or not this was done with malicious intent, the indication is clear. It is more cost effective to give the raises to the big wigs as opposed to those on the more blue-collar end of the business spectrum.

This move is an unfair political attack on decent, hardworking people who are dedicated, as all those in public higher education are, to the principle that higher education should be affordable. If any of this bothers you, I highly encourage you to give Mr. Romney's office a call at 617-725-4000 and let him know how you feel. Remember, a deal is a deal.

What kind of conservative ...?

"THE RIGHT STUFF"
BY COLIN KILEY
VOICE COLUMNIST

In a polarized election year, it is essential that we engage in the highest level of discourse possible if for no other reason than we all still have to live together after this election is in the books. It would be very unfortunate if the Supreme Court once again selects a president, and it would be even more unfortunate if that president is George W. Bush.

With the reorganization of a Republican Club here at WSC, it is appropriate to speculate about the leanings and motives of those resurrecting it. It is interesting to note that some people who call themselves true conservatives are overwhelming supporters of our current president. It is interesting because George W. Bush is miles away from a true conservative. He and his administration represent a new wave of ideological extremists known as neo-conservatives. Many of the administration's big guns (Cheney, Rumsfeld) are longtime Washington players whose careers in the executive branch date as far back as the Nixon/Ford administrations, and who have changed their spots many times over to suit the current power structure. The Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, however, remains unchanged from the start as the purest example of neo-conservatism in this Bush administration.

The neo-con ideology was born out of the rubble of the Soviet Union, when the United States remained the one global superpower left standing after the Cold War. Neo-cons believe that, given our unique position as a lone superpower, we have the privilege and the right to reshape the existing world into one that will suit American interests. This includes, but is not limited to, toppling the regime of a sovereign nation that happens to be, A. unfriendly and/or B. one of the biggest producers of crude petroleum on the planet. Neo-cons represent an alarming and dangerous policy extreme, because they believe that the United States has only to resort to preemptive force to solve any diplomatic entanglements that may arise in the world.

Anyone with a general understanding of what has defined American conservatism in the 20th century can easily spot the glaring disparities between its tenets and those of the Bush administration. The classic American conservative believes in limiting the power of the federal government in the areas of taxation, spending, curbing of the Bill of Rights, superseding the laws of individual states, and overseas geopolitical involvement. In short, they believe in smaller federal government that wields limited power over state's affairs, and that does not spend resources meddling in other countries' affairs. It is difficult to look at what the Bush administration has done and call it the work of conservatives. The federal treasury is now in the red, with deep deficits to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars. We have seen the passage of the Patriot Act, which grants unprecedented authority to federal law enforcement to circumvent the 4th, 6th, and 8th Amendments, to the point where the FBI can even, if it so desires, monitor what books you check out of the library. We have seen this administration create an entirely new agency for Homeland Security that costs staggering amounts of money and has the authority to further trample on the Bill of Rights, and now, the president is calling for the creation of an entirely new office of National Intelligence. This administration has even attempted to strip state and local governments of their power to decide for themselves the issue of same-sex marriage by changing the Constitution itself. And as if the deficits themselves aren't enough, they have been exacerbated by this administration's shameless and unrepentant efforts to play geopolitical puppeteer in Iraq; a campaign whose cost in American lives and dollars has no foreseeable ceiling. As Aaron Sorkin once wrote: "These are the facts of the case. And they are undisputed."

This administration claims to have the conservative values of small government, responsible spending, and reluctance in foreign intervention. But what the American people have seen from it is something of a polar opposite. It is time for people who share the values of keeping the federal government's reach out of your bedroom to stand up and say: Enough! It is time that we stop letting sensationalist media blitzes divide us on trivial, empty issues like service in Vietnam and who looks more like a Frenchman. It is time for us as Americans to look inside ourselves and ask whether we believe in a government that has secured itself incredible authority over us under the guise of "compassionate conservatism." It is time that we paraphrase Ronald Reagan and ask ourselves if America is better off than it was four years ago. Is it, or have we let a neo-conservative administration divide us so much as Americans that we can't see despotism for what it really is? My answer to that question is that America's brave soldiers, dedicated workers, and hearts and minds of tomorrow cannot afford four more years of George W. Bush.

A less obvious issue

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Friends, Americans, countrymen, lend me your ears. The specter of oppression has once again cast its pale hand into the news, giving us pause to consider the dangers we face. As you read this now, a fundamental right that all Californians once dwelled in the ideological protection of has been taken from them.

I speak, of course, of a persons right to choose. To choose to have sex. To choose to have sex with a corpse.

Now before you throw the paper away, or at least skip the rest of the article, let me clarify that I'm not speaking as a proponent of necrophilia. My feelings about the inherent "Ewwwwww" factor in the concept alone are probably very similar to your own. It's pretty disgusting and despicable, and I don't think I'd want to be in the same room as someone who had sex with a dead person.

That said, I think most of those sentiments could be expressed about other protected groups. I find the doctrine of the Klu Klux Klan to be more morally reprehensible than necrophilia, for instance. Despite this, the KKK is protected from prosecution, and rightly so. One of the ideals we as a nation hold so dear is that everyone, no matter how ill-informed, bigoted, or just plain despicable, deserves the right to express themselves. Censorship is a slippery slope, and hate groups and Pauli Shore are the price we pay for ideological freedom.

Now, the reason that, say, rape is illegal is not because the Bible (or any moral authority) says it's wrong, though most agree that it is. The reason it's illegal is because it's a violation of another person. You are infringing with the act upon someone else's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Most crimes are structured after a similar model, with the well-being of the public and government in mind.

I mentioned earlier constitutional protection. We have many misguided "blue laws" in this country, many of which are overlooked as a matter of practicality. As the oft-attacked separation of church and state forbids strictly religious laws, we need to accept that this divide should extend to moral laws, which are simply religious laws in another guise. So, keeping that in mind, as yourself, where's the victim?

If you answered "the deceased," then we have to open up a whole other book of law. Can you steal from a dead person? No, you steal from their estate. Can you commit assault and battery upon a dead person? Of course not. When we die, from a legal point of view, we forfeit our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Keeping all this in mind, here's what I would suggest: First, we need to acknowledge that there need be nothing innately unlawful about the act of necrophilia, even if there is overwhelming moral disgust. This is an important distinction, because the power given to the government on both state and federal levels must be used with the utmost care.

Next, we must come up with the appropriate laws regarding this subject. Sex with a functionally inanimate object should not be a felony punishable by up to eight years in jail. Simple logic can determine the unjustness of that factor alone, as assault and battery on a living human being carries a significantly softer penalty. Rather, it should be a violation of state health codes, much in the way not reporting a dead body is.

The example given in many news articles covering the California law cites that those "caught in the act" could be charged with little more than trespassing before the laws was established. The problem there was an issue of limited redress. The deceased's family should have the right to sue, and sue heavily any person defiling the body. The option for a clause in a final will and testament extending consent to specified persons to engage in martial relations with the deceased should be instituted.

Ultimately, I'm opposed to the California law because it sets a bad precedent, however far removed that precedent may seem to be from anything I care about. I'm not terribly concerned with the rights of necrophiliacs, but it's the power the state seizes that I object to. Why don't you just ask Republican Senator Rick Santorum how easy it is to connect such "deviant" behavior with issues of real personal choice? When all is said and done, this isn't about necrophilia so much as it's about big government.

This just in! Females good, feminism bad

"THE LEFT-HANDED ELEPHANT"
BY DAVID PAGEAU
VOICE COLUMNIST

This particular column has been a long time coming and I think it is about time that the Westfield State College campus was subjected to the logic that is withheld in the words I am about to type. I have a huge problem with feminism. If feminism somehow magically took the shape of a human being and stood next to that untalented, pathetic excuse for a singer from Nickelback, I think I'd rather punch feminism in the throat. And that is saying something.

Feminism, as defined by most college professors, is not a belief in females as a better biological sex, or social gender, but the belief that men and women are essentially equal and should be looked upon by society as being equal. Isn't that nice! It just makes me want to hold hands, eat granola, and find my inner Buddha! So here comes the big question for all of you: Why the hell is this belief in sex and gender equality called 'feminism'? Isn't the name inherently one-sided? Shouldn't we be renaming all of womens study courses 'equality courses'? If not, then I say alongside 'womens studies' there should be 'mens studies'. And don't give me the lame answer of "All courses are male centered" because they aren't. Being a history major, and I am sure this is true for other majors, I have had entire sections of classes devoted to women in numerous parts of history and contrary to popular belief, women are represented in various parts of history without having to make a section devoted exclusively to women. Saying that everything we learn is male centered is like saying every month besides February is White History month. Blacks are represented in months besides February. I'll tell you what, when it is white, Irish Catholic, American immigrants from the 19th century month, call me, because they were persecuted right in our own backyards as well. Just ask my great, great, great, grandfather. But I am digressing. That is another issue.

So it is official. I am now the scum of the earth because I am just a male who doesn't understand the fundamentals of feminism and all of the ideas about equality it holds. I just don't get it because I am an over-privileged male who has had everything handed to him, right? Well, let me ask you, what about the free-thinking women who think that feminism is a bunch of liberal bull? Are they just lost sheep, or could they possibly be onto something? I would have to agree with the latter and say that maybe truly intelligent women do not want to be subjected to the segregation that is feminism and would rather think of themselves as true equals with their male counterparts in school, the workplace, etc. because true equality comes from immersion and mixing, not segregation.

The world isn't perfect (duh!). There are androcentric testosterone filled meat heads out there who treat women like crap, look at women as objects, and basically haven't yet stopped seeing women as they did in days past. There have been a number of injustices brought upon women, especially in America. I consider it shameful to say that women have only been able to legally vote for less than one hundred years. That is absolutely despicable now that I think about it more. My main point is that just because one thinks that feminism is a crock, it doesn't mean that they do not believe in gender equality.

Arts & Entertainment

Wimbledon Scores High, 30-Love

By Emily Ransom
A&E Editor

Love in tennis means nothing. Love in tennis means zero. Love in Wimbledon means something entirely different. Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany co-star in the new romantic comedy Wimbledon that opened September 17.

Dunst is best known for her role in Spiderman and Bring it On. Bettany is well known in his native British entertainment, but the audience will recognize him from A Knight's Tale.

Peter Colt, played by Bettany, was once ranked as high as 11th in the professional tennis world but currently ranked quite low when he gets a wild-card to play at Wimbledon.

Kirsten Dunst is the spunky American tennis player named Lizzie Bradbury who has her heart set on winning, but also finds her heart attracted to Colt. Bradbury's father doesn't want her distracted, and finds Peter Colt to be a major distraction.

After he announces his retirement from professional tennis, Peter Colt wins against every opponent he faces.

Like all romantic comedies, there are stock characters, and the audience knows that everything that is going perfectly will change and have a resolution before the end of the film, but Wimbledon is special.

This movie is one of the select few romantic comedies that is appealing to both genders, making it a good date movie choice.

Dunst is cute, funny, and fits her character. She is believable as a competitive and spirited girl who makes a decision and goes for it. She compels Bettany's character Colt to find it within him play with his heart.

Bettany's own brother bets against him, his parents are disagreeing, and after the Wimbledon tournament Peter Colt will find himself working at a tennis club. The announcement of his retirement is passed over because of a new winning streak.

The tennis world is not a typical backdrop for many films but it works well. It's a source that has not been tapped into. The audience does not have to like the game, and they do no have to know the world of tennis they are quickly being introduced to.

The story is a comedy, no, it is a drama, no, it is a romance. It is truly a mixture of all three. The storyline suggests that the romance is the center but the underdog athlete theme is also a major contender for the central theme.

Nicolaj Coster-Waldau played one of the supporting roles, as did Jon Favreau and Sam Neill.

It was unique, fresh and left the audience wanting more. The audience felt the intenseness inteded during the game, they applauded from time to time, and there were a few tears shed.

-FilePhoto

Wimbledon is a must see that everyone would enjoy. It is fully worth the astronomical movie theater prices.

'Indie masses' drawn to 'Secret Machines' and 'The Killers' like moth to flame

By Ryan Ward
Voice Reporter

MTV2's $2 Bill Concert series brought the indie masses flocking to the Roxy nightclub in Boston last Tuesday for showcases of rock and roll more reminiscent of past generations then the current one. The Secret Machines and The Killers split the stage for the show, which aired on MTV2 on Wednsday, September 22.

-file photo

The Secret Machines played songs off of their critically acclaimed sophmore album "Now Here Is Nowhere," opening the show with the opening song on the album, the 9 minute "First Wave Intact". The song concluded with a thunderous roar of wailing guitar and pounding bass drum that left any nonbelievers gasping for air and gave signs of what was to come. Guitarist Ben Curtis and keyboard player/bassist Brandon Curtis switched off on vocal duties as the band channeled Robert Plant and Led Zeppelin on "Sad and Lonely", and slid into more modern rock territory with the album's single "Nowhere Again". The Pink Floyd influence was apparent throughout the hour long set, which found its apex in a spacey cover of Van Morrison's beautiful "Astral Weeks".

The Killers took the stage around 11P.M. much to audience approval and kicked right into their debut album Hot Fuss. Frontman Brandon Flowers portrayed the confident rock god role as he clutched his glitter covered keyboard, shaking his hips and posing while the rest of his band churned out a tight set filled with Cure-like basslines, Beatlesque harmonies, simplicity and style. Throughout their set The Killers exhaled a breath of optimism that sometimes turned into sarcasm with their songs "Smile Like You Mean It" and "Mr. Brightside". Opting for a sound both dancy and uplifting the band slowed things down with "Andy You're A Star", and broke into two non-album tracks that were more then up to par with anything on the bands major label released. The dance floor got hectic as the band broke into their hit single "Somebody Told Me", a song about a past relationship with an ambigious and androgynous lover gone awry. They closed their set with "All These Things That I've Done", complete with handclaps and a sing along rising vocal breakdown of "I've got soul but I'm not a soldier", putting an end to the perfect night of rock and roll grounded in the essential principle of all great rock and roll: having fun.

Original Poetry-
Finding Nirvana

By Rebeka Lent
Special to The Voice

Alone, just me and my mind
Together, a deadly duo
My heart, my body, my soul
Thru this channel my feelings flow
I am laughing, you see in my eyes that it is funny
I am smiling, you see I am amused
Laughing is like yelling and screaming
Loud emotions escaping my soul
My heart may ache but I say I'm fine
I shift into overdrive and escape
Thru these emotions I live
These tidal waves of pain and happiness
I say I am in control of my thoughts, my feelings
But the more I think about it, I know it is not true
Inside I am screaming, but nothing escapes my trembling lips
My smile masks this ever-present frown
Look in my eyes, do they still sparkle?
Listen to my voice, does it sound like I care?
I do what I must to please a crowd, just so no questions are asked
I find I am at peace with you
You listen when I pour my heart out
And it helps me breath easier when the day ends
But when you think I am not looking, you lower your guard
I hear those sighs loud and clear
Talk to me, if all I can do is listen then it know it is enough
Don't carry this burden by yourself, let me help you
I am strong, not as strong as I wish I were
But put your arm around me, lean on me
For once admit to yourself you are not alone
I am here, for you and not just me
Tell me what's on your mind
You say your fine but I know your heart aches as well
Don't keep it bottled up inside
I will not think any differently of you
Let me return the favor for once
Together someday we will find nirvana

Big E Invasion

BY JILL MONSON
VOICE REPORTER

Grab Your Walking Shoes...

This week I chose the 10th largest fair in America for my review (in case you've been stuck under your bunk – that would be the Big E)!

To begin with I need you to understand the great lengths I went to and personal fear I conquered in order to research this article. My father, brother and I went to the Big E when I was nine. When we came in my dad said, "If we get separated, meet at the first aid station".

I wanted to go to the bathroom by myself. I found the girls room, did my business, came out and got totally turned around and couldn't find the right door, I got scared, cried, and ended up lost. I ended up at the police station and I leaned my chin down on the windows sill and was stung by a bee. Well, I'm allergic so I ended up all puffed up, and at first aid – guess who was waiting for me? Needless to say I haven't been back (that was twenty years ago).

So fears aside I made my plans, got my tickets, and picked the coldest, rainiest day possible to go. Actually, I suggest going on a day like that because the crowds are smaller.

Before I left I spoke with Noreen Tassinari, Marketing Director and asked her what I shouldn't miss. Her suggestion, "The food. There's something for everyone"... and she was right.

We started in the state buildings, eating our way through New England. NH had maple everything, CT was clams on the half shell , VT had apple cider and Ben & Jerry's. And for the college student in all of us Otter Creek beer. Waddling on to Maine you can get a lobster roll or wild blueberries. Plus, the famous baked potato. Next our home state... offering chili dogs, Finnish pancakes, clam chowda, and baked beans. And finally, RI with seafood galore.

The Big E wouldn't be complete without checking out the Better Living Center. My favorite thing to do is see the demonstrators. If you want the cleanest dorm in the east the products are there... they have the "Amazing Sweepa", "The Magical Mop", "The Surface Pro Squeegie", and since you're probably sharing a bathroom they've got "Odor B Gone". Plus you can buy everything from sports merchandise (I had to pick up a Patriots T), handbags, and even pet ID tags.

And if you get the shopping munchies you can check out Kelly's Country Store – a candy paradise. Old timers like me feel nostalgic for the black licorice dollars and the Good n-Plenty's.

Since most of us can't afford to travel to Jersey, let alone overseas you don't want to miss the International Plaza. The whole building's great, but don't miss Murphy's Irish Pub (in the far corner) with the signing bartenders and authentic Irish beer, whisky, and stew.

The Big E's known for bringing in fabulous entertainment and this year's no exception. I got to see Heart, along with thousands of my closest friends. Because the shows are first come first serve – I recommend getting there early if you want a seat.

For instance, Kerri from Chicopee was the first in line; she was there at noon (for a show that started at 8P.M.). The Wilson sisters still have it after all these years giving us the classics "Alone", "Magic Man" and "Barracuda", plus sampling new stuff from their latest album "Jupiter's Darling".

I recommend checking out the new tunes, they rock like old school with a little country flavor I was also impressed when Ann Wilson said don't forget "register to vote or you can't bitch" (words to the wise).

This weekend the line-ups are huge. Saturday Springfield's own, thirteen year old Ashley Gearing, opens for American Idol's Kimberly Locke at 7P.M. And Sunday, October 3 at 7P.M. Jessica Simpson takes the stage. And ladies, I asked the Marketing Director the question every woman wants to know, will her husband (Nick Lachey) be coming? Tassinari said, "We've not heard either way".

The Big E is now through Sunday, October 3. Tickets are $12 weekdays, $15 weekends. You do have to pay to park. Check out www.thebige.com for information on everything including bus shuttles, exhibitors, buying tickets online, and the complete entertainment schedule.

So grab some comfy sneakers, stretchy pants, and your grocery budget for the week and don't miss the Big E!

Phantom out of this planet

BY JASON YOUNG
VOICE REPORTER

File Photo

When their hit single "California" became the theme song for FOX's "The O.C." in early August 2003, rock band Phantom Planet was better known as "the guy from Rushmore's band." That very same week Jason Schwartzman, star of Rushmore and the upcoming I Heart Huckabee's, left the band to pursue his acting career. Since then, they hired a new drummer, another guitarist left, and the quartet (which used to be a quintet) plays small venue shows to a crop of teenage girls screaming "California!"

Northampton's Pearl St. Night Club was no different on Sept. 8. The majority of the audience was young girls. Some could even be heard arguing whether the eighth or ninth grade was better. Halfway into Phantom Planet's set, a girl yelled out: "play 'Anthem,' I have to go home in like five minutes." The "five minutes" she was referring to would only make it 10 o'clock. Wednesday is a school night, you know.

The show started at 8:30P.M. A few people were waiting outside in the rain before the doors opened, but I decided that Thai food was more important. I had enough time to eat and still get to the front of the crowd for Phantom Planet.

Like most concerts, it started a few minutes late. I think it was because the big buff bouncer kept kicking kids out for having cameras. Even The Like, the opening band, thought it was uncalled for. All three members stared in disbelief as a WWE wannabe bullied around a bunch of 13-year-olds who weren't tall enough to read the sign when they came in.

The Like was more of a service to the crowd than an actual opening act. The kind of set that ensures the show is long enough to charge fifteen bucks. They played six songs, but none of them (they are all 18-year-old girls) seemed to have any passion for their music. The bassist continued to look away shyly at the end of every song as the audience applauded. Maybe she knew their applause was empty – as empty as a band whose lead singer apologizes before their last song because they have to play it. Hopefully they give a little more effort opening for Maroon 5 in Europe.

Next up was a band called Sahara Hotnights, an all-girl group from Sweden promoting their latest album, Kiss & Tell, in the states. Their earlier recordings reflect the influence of the late Kurt Cobain and Weezer, whereas their new material is more like Green Day – poppy, yet inspired. I should know; I have since bought all their CDs (and a shirt). And if it weren't for Green Day's newest (and best) album, they would be all I was listening to. Please check them out at www.saharahotnights.com.

An hour or so into the show, the lights dimmed and strange techno music began to play. A sole figure ran to the stage, picked up a guitar, and started to play. Fans of Donnie Darko would recognize him as Seth Devlin, but everyone at the show knew him as Alex Greenwald. He strummed the opening riffs to "By the Bed," maybe the best song on their latest, self-titled release. He sang about a minute of it when the rest of the band came charging down to join in. The band formed in a garage, and that same raw feel is palpable at their live shows. They played a strong set, almost an hour and a half, which included commercial successes like "California" and "Big Brat," a cover of Fugazi's "Waiting Room," and an unreleased song that didn't make their last album.

Most bands end with an encore performance. Not Phantom Planet. They give it their all during the last numbers, ending with "All Over Again," a track off their greatest record "The Guest." In their live ten minute version, three of the four remaining members do a rendition of a "Stomp!" performance, all playing different parts of the drum set. Then they walk off the set with the sounds of feedback blaring throughout.

I had such a good time that I decided to drive out to New Haven, CT to see them perform on Sept. 14. Before the show I met the girls from Sahara Hotnights, and they signed my CD. I also received an autographed copy of their set list and one of the drummer's drum sticks.

I would do it all over again (pun intended) if I could. The tour concludes this upcoming week in California, the home of Phantom Planet, where they plan on starting production for their fourth studio album.

Health Capsule

Note to students subscribing to the Westfield State College Health Insurance: This year's insurance brochure can be obtained in the Department of Health Services or printed from the Department's website at www.wsc.ma.edu/healthservices or www.universityhealthplans.com (Click on Westfield State College at this website). Identification and prescription cards are not distributed until the middle of the semester since enrollment is extended until October 14th. Reimbursement claim forms can be printed from the University Health Plans website. Please contact the Department at X5415 if you have any questions or problems.

Mark your calendars: Influenza and Menomune Maxim Health Vaccine Clinic on October 28th from 1P.M. to 7P.M. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. The cost for Influenza Vaccine to prevent the flu will be $20 and the cost for Menomune Vaccine to prevent certain bacterial types of meningitis will be $90. People allergic to eggs should not get Influenza Vaccine. If you've received Menomune, protection from this vaccine should last three to five years.

November 9th, come and listen to Mike Domitrz' presentation "Can I Kiss You?" in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 8P.M. Mike is a well known speaker on college campuses. His program is dynamic, interactive and humorous while it addresses serious issues of dating communication, respect and sexual assault awareness. See his website at www.canikissyou.com The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has also sponsored grant money toward this event.

Washington Center offers internship opportunities

BY MAUREEN MCCARTNEY
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

Undergraduates interested in internships in Washington DC are invited to a special presentation offered by the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. A campus presentation will take place on Tuesday, September 28th at 3:00 pm in Scanlon Banquet Hall. Classroom presentations will also be offered throughout the day. The presentation will highlight the wide range of opportunities for virtually every major, tuition waivers, scholarships and other financial assistance and special housing. The deadline for Competitive Placements, including paid federal government positions is early October for spring placement. Internships are available fall, spring and summer sessions.

Nine Westfield State College undergraduates completed successful internships in Washington DC over the summer session. Representing a variety of academic backgrounds and interests, these students participated in the Washington Center for Internships summer initiative for upper level undergraduates and recent graduates.

Several students secured highly competitive placements with the federal government. Mark Carrasquillo, a Criminal Justice major, was hired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security - Office of Domestic Preparedness. Matthew Frederick, also a Criminal Justice major, interned with INTERPOL – Washington U.S. National Central Bureau. Daniel Harren, a dual major in Political Science and Environmental Science worked with the Department of Defense Office of Natural Resources.

Three additional Criminal Justice majors, Robert Musto, Andrew Tighe and Richard McNeil, worked as a team with the Montgomery County Public Defenders Service in Rockville MD. Matthew Muldoon was assigned to the Alexandria Adult Probation and Parole.

Sarah Vitorino, a recent graduate in the Department of Psychology accepted an assignment with SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. Sherice Chevannes joined the National Head Start Association, where she was nominated for intern of the summer.

All of the interns worked full time in their respective agencies, completed an evening three credit course in their field of study and attended embassy visits, congressional breakfasts and special seminars and speaker programs. The Washington Center secures intern housing in high-end apartments in Georgetown, the District and Virginia.

All of the undergraduates received special scholarships to help finance their internships, through programs jointly sponsored by the Commonwealth, the Westfield State College Foundation and the Washington Center.

Additional information about the internship opportunities is available from Maureen McCartney, Director of Career Services and Liaison for the Washington Center Program.

Loosen the pants, The Big E is in town

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

The Big E has returned to western Mass so WSC students should empty their bank accounts and save room for the food. Eastern States Exposition, The Big E, is known for the food and there is plenty to review, but since the "meal" is not typical, Dining without the Commons is ranking the top foods everyone should have while at the Big E, including some foods that are unusual or hard to find.

10. Vermont has apples. Most Eastern states have apples, but the Vermont state building has apple cider in all forms. The cider is delicious served hot, cold, or as a frozen slush drink. It is quite cheap and tasty in any form.

9. Connecticut had their selection of foods to offer, but the most notable food was corn on the cob. Don't think it was just some old corn found over the summer. Ohhno, this corn is on the cob, it is fresh and they peel back the husk and dip the whole ear in butter. Incredible.

8. The New Hampshire state building pleasantly surprised Dining without the Commons. They were serving broccoli and cheddar cheese soup in bread bowls that was to die for. The soup was excellent and the bread bowl was an added bonus.

7. It's not medieval England, but the roasted turkey legs are popular. They look like those eating them should be accompanying King Arthur or Guinevere.

6. Hitting the chart at number six is the buffalo wings. The taste test found them to be one of the favorite foods of the Big E. They come in mild or hot, and hot is highly recommended.

5. Onion Blossom and fried veggies are another popular food found at the Big E. The onion blossom is excellent but it's recommended that eaters share it since it is large enough to almost be a meal alone.

Dining without the Commons
Taste: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Price: average
Location: W. Springfield
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★
Specialties: expansive fair food

4. Dougnuts are not just for breakfast anymore when they're mini and at the Big E. They are 'melt in your mouth' good, and are bite size. They are perfect for snacking on the way to another food stop.

3. Dessert is the best part of any meal and The Big E does it right. A footlong éclair and the phantom gourmet's renowned cream puff are the best choices. The éclair is top-notch and the cream puff is a taste of heaven, or rather the taste of the Big E.

2. The Big E knows how we like it…deep-fried. They offer deep-fried Oreos, Twinkies and candy bars. The Oreos are the best. They are one of those unusual foods that are hard to find but the Big E does it right. They take Oreos deep-fry them then roll them in sugar. They are amazing and a 'must eat.'

1. And, hands down the number one food of The Big E is the Maine Potato. The Maine State building probably has many other delicious foods, but the potato is one of the most popular foods of the Big E. They cost $4 and are worth every penny. Potatoes are such a hot commodity that they are always served hot to those waiting in line with any or all of the toppings desired. Toppings include: butter, cheese, chives, bacon, and sour cream.

The food at the Big E is amazing and is unlike any other fair. Dining without the Commons does not recommend trying all the suggested top 10 foods to try there in the same visit, and will not be held accountable for injuries due to overeating.

The food is amazing and very memorable but don't over do it. A lot of the foods can be packaged to take home, keep that as an option because there is too much to eat in one visit.

The bookstore will begin sending unsold textbooks back to the publishers starting October 1. If you have not purchased your books you should do so before then!

Sigma Tau Delta,
the English Honor Society, will be meeting Wednesday September 29, 2004 at 7P.M. in Bates Lounge to elect officers

The Voice

Is Hiring

We have positions open for a Business Manager, a Distributor and two other general openings. All positions are work study and pay for a 6 hour work week. Experience is not required. Business Manager duties include; dealing with local and national businesses for advertisement revenue, organize invoice slips and collecting checks. You must have your own transportation. Distributor Duties include; delivering the papers either Friday afternoon or Monday to all the Residence Halls the Dining Commons, the Academic Halls the Commuter Cafe and possibly the Woodward Center. Anyone interested may leave a message at 'The Voice' office x5431 or stop by Ely C-248.

Skatefest

BY DAVID PAGEAU & EMILY ENGEL
VOICE REPORTERS

The Worcester Palladium welcomed the 7th annual Skatefest on September 17th and 18th, featuring a line-up of all sort of genres of bands, including those who proclaim themselves hardcore, emo, ska and of course, a genre all it's own, Steve-o. Even though the Palladium featured dozens of bands, we viewed five. After taking many pictures and scribbling down note *after* note about the performers, we came to the same conclusion: The Massachusetts "scene" is definitely not what it used to be. The crowd was awfully small for such a large event; the floor was only about half covered with kids, whose average age was most likely around sixteen. It seemed as though this new generation of concert-goers has been overwhelmingly influenced by the incessent squaking of VJ's on MTV. It was rare to see anyone singing along with the songs, but instead, nodding their heads vigorously with the music, which we all know is a cover up for not knowing the words.

Two recently graduated students from Westfield State, Scott Toomey and Mike Boyd, were in attendance on Friday night. They had come to view two bands that ended up getting dropped from the venue.

"We were really pissed off when we found out that Mae and Glasseater were no longer playing," said Boyd. "The Friday performances have turned to s**t."

"Most of the bands on the venue are on tour with each other anyway. MassConcerts grabs them en route and has them play." explained Toomey.

The two proceeded to leave shortly after this interview, due to being bored and dissapointed.

The bands that appeared on the main stage were mediocre at best, even though it was obvious the bands gave it their all.

The first band we witnessed was The Early November. This band could be easily classified as emo, with a punk rock twist. A band belonging to DriveThru Records, they have released only two EP's and one full length, titled *The Room's Too Cold*. The group had a high-spirited performance, with energenic antics, including clap-a-longs and sing-a-longs. The bassist Sergio Anello and guitarist Ace Enders entertained themselves with swinging their guitars and jumping off amps.

This band is on the quiet side, and their music is something you listen to while trying to relax, or attempting to get over a lost love. However, Enders called for a mosh pit towards the end. The kids on the floor obliged. Fortunately, it was an extremely weak pit. Come on. Who moshes to emo?

They ended their set with a well-known song off of their *For All of This* EP, *I Want to Hear You Sad*. This song is your typical emotional song about being without the one you love, and knowing it's the right thing to do. Terribly cliche, but they do a bang-up job with their performance. At the end, Enders jumped into the audience, guitar and all. Audience involvement was huge, and their music is something anyone with a heart can enjoy.

Local heroes The Hope Conspiracy from Boston took the stage right after The Early November. Singer Kevin Baker took the stage with his bandmates in front of a young, and lightly populated Palladium crowd. Baker made no bones about his feelings on the direction that the current scene was taking apologizing to the crowd for the fact that he and his band did not wear makeup.

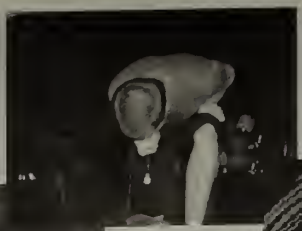
With viscious ferocity, Baker screamed the words to a few of The Hope Conspiracy's more well known tracks, ***Defiant Hearts*** and ***Fallen***, off of their 2002 release *Endnote* on Equal Vision Records.

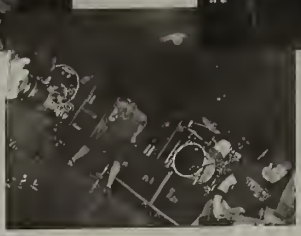
For the crowd that was in attendance, one could tell that many devout, older fans were in attendance and in full force. For the first time the entire night, the pit was moving and kids were teaming in piles upon each other to scream the words to their favorite rhythmic tirades.

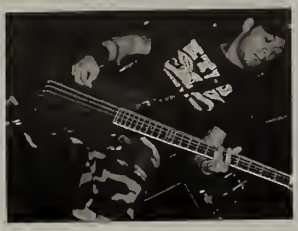
In the middle of their set, Baker gave a short speech to the crowd on individualism and the negative influence that the media has upon the youth of America, and specifically on the Massachusetts hardcore scene. He denounced such things as television, magazines, and mainstream movies as fallacies and as means of spreading lies and unoriginality among drones of humans.

After his speech, Baker gave yet another jab at the mainstream, MTV-esque aura that the hardcore scene has taken on in the past few years by going into ***No Love Goes Unpunished*** off of one of their 2001 release on Bridge Nine Records, ***File 03***, by saying that this album came out before many of the individuals in the audience were even born.

Their set was very energetic overall, with many of the audience members getting into these Massachusetts hardcore veterans. One has to give them credit for their energy and antics on such a large venue with a number of different bands from various genres of music, and audience members who were most likely not there to solely see them. Personally, this kid would have rather seen The Hope Conspiracy in the upstairs venue at the Palladium on their own show with other hardcore, but I guess MTV, ESPN and whomever else has their dirty little fingers in Skatefest doesn't agree with me.







Orange County, California has given the hardcore scene a swift kick in the pants with Throwdown, formed in 1997. Their albums are brutal and their live shows are devastatingly passionate, proclaiming their devoutness to straightedge pride. Throwdown sings of unity, family, and honor. All attributes that they hold dear as individuals and as a band.

With two huge banners in front of the guitarists amplifiers, Dave Peters and the rest of Throwdown took the stage with many fans eagerly awaiting to dance to their favorite Throwdown anthems. One of the guitarists from Throwdown could not play that night, so one of the guitarists from Every Time I Die filled in.

They started off the show with a number of their songs off of their 2003 release *Hoymaker* on Trustkill Records including their well-known anthem *Roise Your Fist*. They also played many of their popular songs off of their 2001 release *You Don't hove to be Blood to be Fomily* on Indecision Records including the straightedge anthems *Unite* and *The Edge is Strong* which got many kids to begin jumping across the barrier to sing along with Peters.

Throwdown's aura was well received by the crowd for the most part. The pit was relatively strong and up until the end was pretty void of any stupidity. During one of their songs, I personally saw a fight break out where one kid was brought to the ground and repeatedly kicked. I was pleasantly surprised to hear Peters yell into the crowd during one of the breakdowns "You better f**ing let that kid up to fight fair."

The quality of the show overall was great. Peters and his bandmates put on a fabulous performence despite not having one of their original members. The crowd was enthralled with them and at the height of their set I almost forgot that I was at a music festival and not at a normal hardcore show.

Unfortunately, for a band that usually has a lot of positive energy to bring to a show, the crowd was not very receiving and throughout the night started fight after fight in the name of being tough.

WSC Campus Blood Drive!

Wednesday, Oct. 6th

1 PM -7 PM

Campus Center Third World Room

All donors will be entered in a drawing for a pair of Patriots tickets!

Brown Bag Bingo!

Ely Main Lounge

11 pm Friday 10/1

11 pm Friday 10/15

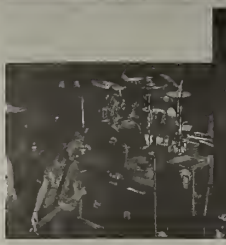
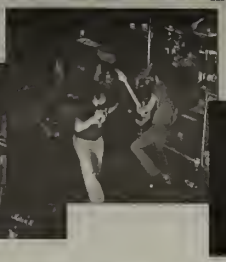
11 pm Friday 10/29

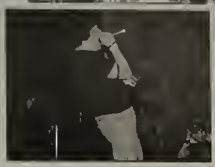
11 pm Friday 11/19

11 pm Friday 2/3

Fun and prizes!

NORMA*JEAN

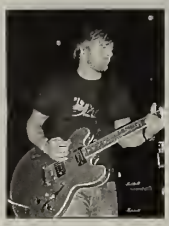


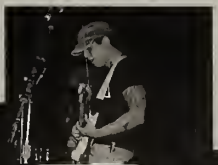
While they may be from the Atlanta suburbs of good ol' Georgia, Norma Jean is no peach. Forming back in 1997 as Lutikriss, the members of Norma Jean were signed to SolidState Records which is known for it's population of Hardcore Christian bands. With a new name and new sound, Norma Jean have proven themselves to be a staple in the current hardcore lineup.

In 2002, Norma Jean put out their first album under their new name, *Bless the Martyr and Kiss the Child*, which brought a whirlwind of applause to hardcore fans everywhere. Their live shows have proven to uphold this standard they have set with brutal lyrics, energy, and a stage presence that cannot be matched. They are the hardcore introverts best friend.

There were bright wire encased halogen lights lining the stage, casting silhouettes of the members along the walls. Their new singer, Josh Scoglin, took the stage and took complete charge of the awaiting crowd of fans who were singing along to every word. During their song *I used to hate cell phones, but now I hate car accidents*, one of Norma Jean's merch guys decided to join in and jump into the crowd with a microphone to share.

Norma Jean put on an absolutely phenomenal show and I was personally happy to hear the singer say at the end "Every single one of us believes in Jesus," proving that they have stayed true to their Christian values that have been the driving force behind all of their music.





The growth (no pun intended) of the Orange County band Home Grown has been long and shifting. Starting out playing ska, as most of the SoCal bands seem to do, got them pretty much no where. They have released seven albums since 1995, each with a different sound than the privious. Their latest full length album *Kings of Pop* debuted in 2002 on DriveThru records. Much to the dismay of ska lovers throughout the United States, Home Grown had taken yet another new turn. They seemed to have dropped their ska sound completely to become a regular ol' pop-punk band. If it weren't for their memorable lyrics and catchy guitar riffs, Home Grown might've been just another forgotten band. Skatefest has had Home Grown on their venue for three years running, and they have continuously managed to keep on pleasing the audience. Their stage show isn't anything to get excited about, seeing as though they didn't do much moving, but hey, they made our job of taking pictures quite easy.

The majority of their set were songs off of *Kings of Pop*, along with one song off of their new EP *When It All Comes Down*. Guitarist John E. Trash made it a point to announce twice that their new EP was only availible at their shows and on the DriveThru website. The kids in the crowd seemed to enjoy their performance, and the band itself seemed confident and at home on stage. Having been a fan of their music since high school, seeing them for the first time was a great experience.

Steve-o. What can really be said about the biggest idiot to ever hit the MTV screen? After making the crowd wait about fifteen minutes for his appearence (usually the crowd waits about five for a set change), the kids began to chant the name of their hero. Taking a quick peek backstage, we caught a glimpse of the man himself in quiet solitude, sipping on a can of Bud. All over the stage were advertisements for ESPN videogames, apparently one of the many companies that owns a little piece of Steve-o.

When he finally graced us with his presence, the crowd gave an uproarious welcome to the obviously drunk star. He could barely stand up straight, but managed to grab two cans of beer and smack them against his forehead until they burst, soaking the photographers and the first row. A large cloud of smoke billowed out from backstage, which smelled remarkably similar to *GASP* marijuana. Steve-o then spoke to us, boasting that he had been drunk since the day prior, and wondered aloud why he was in Massachusetts. He then explained so eloquently that he would perform "All the f**ng s**t they won't allow on TV." He then proceeded to place the mic into his mouth and bang his head, which made quite the amusing bang-sound. We were already annoyed to the extreme, and it had only been about six minutes. Next, he grabbed a random guy out of the crowd, and kicked him square in the junk, for no apparent reason. He then squeezed lime juice into his eyes, snorted salt, and vomited all over the stage. Are people truly entertained by this? The crowd seemed evenly split; some cheered him on, others jeered along with us. It's a ridiculous notion that this "man" gets paid a ton of money for doing these things. The act was repulsive, and totally unnecessary. Not to mention a major insult to the bands, you know, the talented ones who were on only minutes before. Steve-o ought to be banned from life. He doesn't deserve much more of a write-up than this.

The Intramurals Office Has Moved!

Visit us in our new home in Parenzo Gym (169)
(Right Under the Basketball Hoop)

Check Out Our New Website:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Always Current and Up to Date.
For All Your Intramural Needs
Rosters / Rules etc... everything you need to know can be found online.

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals

Have Fun - Meet New People

Woodward Center Field House
& Parenzo Gymnasium
Open Gym

Schedule subject to change
See Intramural website or call x5417 or x5424

Sept 27 - Woodward - 4pm-8pm
Parenzo - 3pm-8pm

WSC Student / Staff Only - ID Required
NO Street Shoes Allowed
Must have a 2nd pair of clean shoes.

Still Accepting Rosters for:

1 Pitch Softball
Flag Football (M & W)
Volleyball (M & W)

One More Week Only

Remember!!

IDs are Required for Every Event

including
Intramurals and Open Gym

Work Study Positions are still available in Athletics.

The first varsity game in the Woodward Center took place on Sept. 16, 2004, when Westfield State defeated Lasell College in a volleyball match, 3-2. *Photo by Mickey Curtis*

A pre-game ceremony was held to commemorate the first varsity game in the field house of Westfield State College's Woodward Center on Thursday, Sept. 16, when the Owls hosted Lasell College in a volleyball match. From left to right, are: Nestor, the Owl mascot, Westfield State senior captain Amy Svatik, Dr. Arthur Jackson, WSC vice-president of student-affairs, and Lasell College co-captains Wendy Riddle and Angele Lavole. The 80,000 square foot academic/athletic building was officially dedicated on Sept. 1, 2004. *Photo by David Harris-Fried*

Owls Handle Nichols, 22-7

WESTFIELD – Senior quarterback Jon Meczywor (Lanesboro) threw for 210 yards in Westfield State's 22-7 victory over Nichols College in New England Football Conference action Sept. 18.

The Owls evened their record at 1-1 following last week's disappointing 26-21 season opening loss at Western New England. Nichols is 0-3, with other losses to Worcester State and Bridgewater.

The Owls also received a stellar performance from junior fullback/punter Mark Puchalski, who rushed for 49 yards on nine carries and a touchdown, and who boomed nine punts for an average of 45.6 yards. The 6-2, 230-pounder from South Deerfield also handled the kickoff duties in the second half.

Westfield took a 13-0 lead early in the second quarter following a pair of one-yard touchdown runs by senior tailback Don Jones (Springfield), who was limited to just 15 rushing yards on 22 carries.

Fourth-down pass completions by Meczywor kept both drives alive. The 6-5, 225-pound University of Maine transfer finished with 13 completions in 32 attempts.

Westfield's first TD drive covered 48 yards in 13 plays, with Meczywor completing a six-yard pass to junior B.J. Holleran (6 catches, 91 yards) on fourth-and-three from the Nichols 18.

During the second scoring drive (10 plays, 50 yards), Meczywor completed a 22-yard pass to Tim Tontonoz (Chicopee) on fourth-and-11 from the 23.

Nichols scored late in the first half on a three-yard pass from Mike Carven to Daragh McCann. The big play in the six-play, 80-yard drive was a 46-yard pass reception by Sean Glavin.

The Owls scored the only second-half points on a 20-yard field goal by Garrett Davis and a 15-yard touchdown jaunt by Puchalski.

The Westfield defense played well for the second straight week, limiting Nichols to nine first downs and 151 total offensive yards, and registering five sacks and three second-half interceptions.

Junior defensive lineman Adam Lapon (Randolph) led the balanced attack with six tackles, including four sacks totaling 24 yards in losses.

Field Hockey Falls To Trinity

HARTFORD – Senior forward Jessica Baker scored three goals to lead the Trinity College to a 6-3 victory over the visiting and previously-undefeated Westfield State on Sept. 21.

Westfield tied the score at 2-2 on goals by Shanna Litterst and Carolyn Insigne. But the Bantams took control of the game in the second half with three unanswered goals, including two by Baker.

Sophomore Kate Anderson (Georgetown) had a goal and an assist for Westfield. She now has seven assists in five games.

"Trinity was a very fast team," said WSC coach Heather Cabral.

Westfield State College president Vicky Carwein visits with members of the volleyball team during a cookout that was held for the student-athletes on Sept. 20 at Stanley Park. More than 250 student-athletes attended the community building event, which was funded by a grant from the NCAA. *Photo by Mickey Curtis*

Westfield State junior outside hitter Lindsay Dalene was named Mass. State Conference Player of the Week. *Photo by David Harris-Fried*

Campbell, Dalene Players of Week

Westfield State men's soccer player Billy Campbell and women's volleyball player Lindsay Dalene were named Mass. State Conference Players of the Week on Sept. 20.

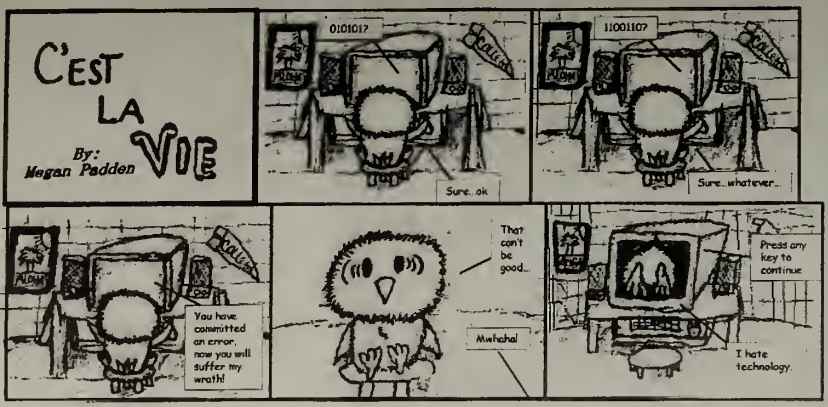
Campbell, a sophomore from Stoneham, scored the game-winning goal in a 3-0 victory over Western Connecticut State. Datene, a junior from East Hartland, Conn., had a big week as the Owls won a pair of matches, including their MASCAC opener with Salem State. She had 17 kills and 11 blocks vs. Lasell and 11 kills and seven blocks in a 3-1 victory at Salem State.

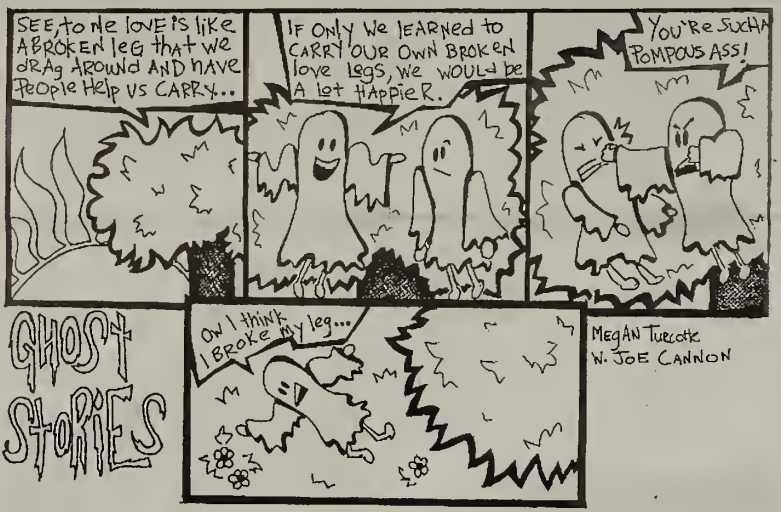
Three other Westfield State athletes were named to weekly honor rolls. Junior midfielder Kate Anderson (Georgetown) scored the game-winning goal in an overtime victory at Becker for the 4-0 field hockey team. Anderson also registered an assist to give her six assists in the first four games.

Junior fullback/punter Mark Puchatski (South Deerfield) and junior defensive lineman Adam Lapon (Randolph) were named to the New England Football Conference honor roll following the Owls' 22-7 victory over Nichols.

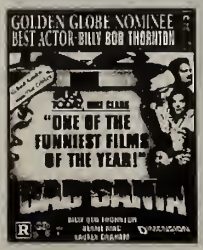
Puchalski rushed for 49 yards on nine carries, including a 15-yard touchdown jaunt, and boomed nine punts for a 45.6 average, including two of 65 and 61 yards.

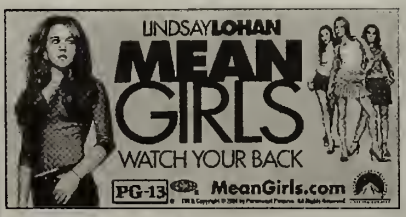
Lapon recorded a team-high six tackles, including four quarterback sacks.





Check Out These Campus Flicks!



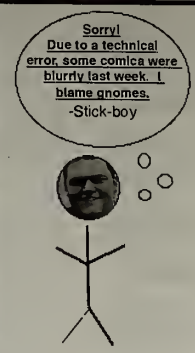


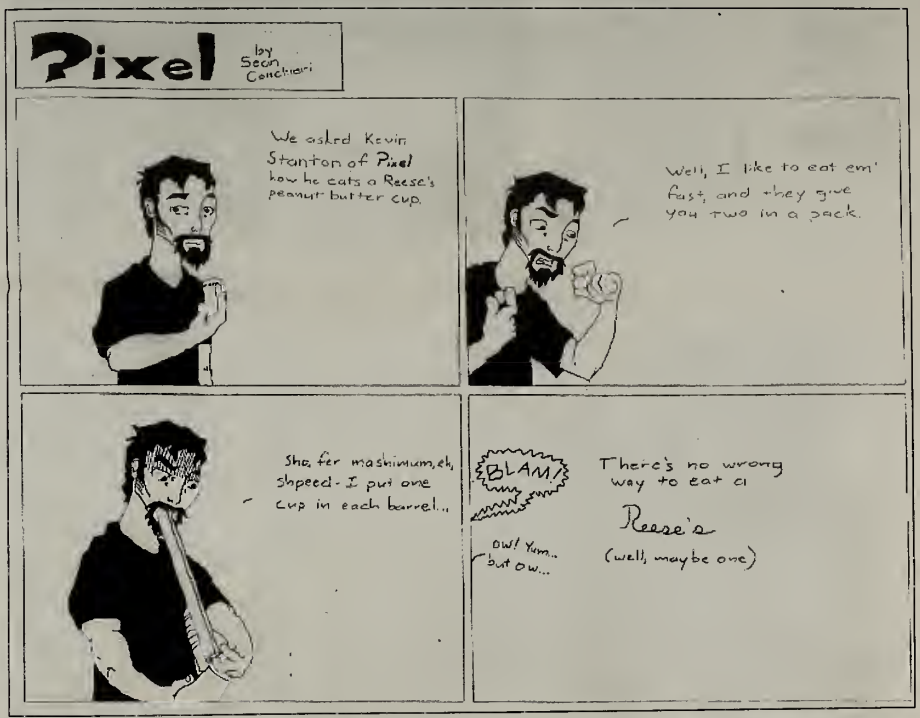
For complete listings, see the backpage.

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"If my professor gives out 200 pages of reading, I'll only do the first 50 pages and wonder why they assigned so much. So the next week they give us 50 pages. And yes, I only read the first 10 and wonder why they assigned so much."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:
www.collegehumor.com
You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots*.
Check your local bookstore.

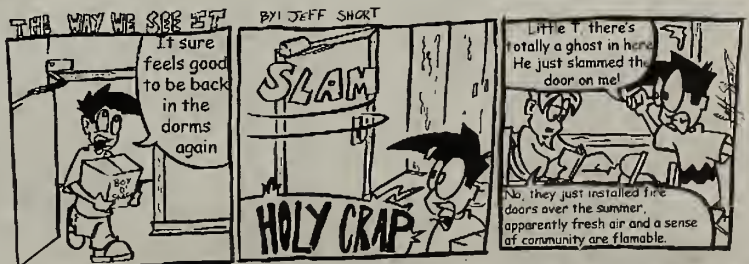




Due to a technical error, last week's Voice had a faulty copy of "The Way We See It."

Just to be on the safe side, we have decided to retype the text in the third box under the comic itself.

This problem will be corrected for the next issue.
-The Voice



Top Quote

Little T, there's totally a ghost in here. He just slammed the door on me!

No, they just installed fire doors over the summer, apparently fresh air and a sense of community are flamable

The Back Page

Campus Flicks

9/27 - Kill Bill Vol. 2 & Monster
9/28 - Eurotrip & The Punisher
9/29 - Bad Santa & Mystic River
9/30 - Cold Mountain & 50 First Dates
10/1-3 - Along Came Polly & You Got Served
Movies start at 8pm on Ch. 70 & 71

Campus Activities Board
presents
October CoffeeHouse
Oct 6 - 8pm-11pm
Ely Main Lounge

WSC Athletics This Week

W Soccer v. Brandeis - 9/28 - 7p
Field Hockey v. Fitchburg - 9/29 7p
Field Hockey v. Plymouth - 10/1 7p
Volleyball @ Keene State - 10/1
Football v. Worcester - 10/2 - 1p
M. Soccer v. Salem - 10/2 - 6p
X-Country @ SUNY Invit. - 10/2

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	27 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20p & 6:30-9:45p - Ely Pool Monday Evning Jazz - EML - 7p	28 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool Washington Center Informational Meeting - 3pm - SLR SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	29 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Lazer 99.3 Campus Tour - Campus Green - 11:30-2:00pm C.A.B. - 5p - SGA Office	30 Rec Swim - 11:15am - 12:30pm & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool New Voters DEBATE Watch - 6:30pm-10pm - EML	1 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool WSC v. Plymouth - 7pm - Alumni Field Brown Bag Bingo - 11pm - EML	2 FAMILY WEEKEND FEATURING: Campus Carnival - Campus Green - 9am-4pm WSC v. Worcester - 1pm - Alumni Field
3 Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-8pm	4 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm	5 Criminal Justice Fair 2004 - SBH - 9am-6pm Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 Ely Pool	6 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Blood Drive - 1p-7p - TWR CoffeeHouse - EML - 8-11pm	7 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool WSC Volleyball v. Bay Path - WOOD - 6pm	8 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool New Voters DEBATE Watch - EML - 6:30-10pm	9 WSC v. Mass Maritime - Alumni Field - 1pm WSC v. Framingham - Alumni Field - 6pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, revicwers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248 or email us at:
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X September 27, 2004 Issue IV

Faculty may snub Carwein at her own inauguration
pg. 1

Freshman have leaders Election results
pg. 2

Photo by Mike Coughlin

Alcohol involved in Scanlon hall damages
pg. 1

Punches were thrown
Steve-O was there
Skatefest photos pg. 13

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | October 4, 2004 | Issue V

Veterans speak about traumas of the battlefield

By Robbie Crossman
Voice Reporter

What happens to the mind of a soldier when they return home? Many people gathered on Sunday, Sept. 26 to discuss the impact war can have on individuals and their families and how we can help them deal with the stress. The forum was put on by Stephen Sossaman, a WSC Professor of English, and a Vietnam veteran.

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Stephen Sossaman speaks at 'Coming Home From Iraq'

The speakers were Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey, who served in the U.S. Marines for 12 years, and participated in the invasion of Iraq, Tech. Sgt. Pablo Rodriguez, a Northampton police officer in the Air Force Reserves who served in Iraq in 2003, Dr. Claudia Ciano-Boyce, a WSC Prof. of Psychology, Frank Ciancotti, the Veteran's Agent in Westfield, Dave Bressem, the director of the Springfield Veteran Center, and Debby Lucey whose brother served in the Marines in Iraq and then took his own life upon his return.

The speakers gathered to talk about the war in Iraq itself and how it affected each of them. Tech Sgt. Pablo Rodriguez talked mostly about his experience in Iraq. Sgt. Rodriguez said his job was to secure Baghdad airports. "It was chaotic. Much of it was improvised, and wasn't as organized as we hoped. What kept us together was the chain of command," said Sgt. Rodriguez.

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey said, "I was trained to do only one thing. To face the enemy and destroy him. I met the enemy on the battlefield and that's exactly what I did. The only problem was we didn't know who the enemy was. Some were five and some were 70. We killed, and we killed very well. It isn't man's natural ability to kill." Sgt. Massey said that he struggles with the thought of killing people everyday.

Debby Lucey, the sister of Jeffery Lucey, who took his life after he served in Iraq, said, "I was overjoyed to have him back, but I knew something wasn't right." Lucey said those emotional scars revealed them

Veterans-Page2

'Corrective Action' affects WSC student teachers

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

WESTFIELD – A Westfield elementary school was given a "corrective action" on Sept. 15 for not making adequate yearly progress on the MCAS tests for four years in a row.

Abner Gibbs Elementary School, at 50 West Silver St., was named one of the 15 local area schools declared short of federal targets on state-issued standardized exams.

"We and the federal government expect major changes to take place in these schools," said state Department of Education commissioner David P. Driscoll.

Massachusetts uses the MCAS to test students in grades three through seven and again in grade 10.

Corrective Action-Page 2

Republican Club makes waves at WSC

By Emily Engel
Editor-in-Chief

Upon entering room 230 on the second floor of Ely, a large bowl of fruit, cookies and canned beverages greeted all who entered. What looked like the first meeting of the new culinary club on campus turned out to be the rejuvenation of the WSC Republicans Club.

This club is, right now, the only partisan political club on campus. There is currently no Democratic club, and whether or not one will pop up soon remains a mystery.

"Having another club like that would give us something to focus on, and perhaps debate with," said Adam Shibley, a junior.

"Having any opposition would definitely keep us on our toes," said senior Jeff Loja.

Republicans-Page 3

Carwein absent for 'Day of Outrage'

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Wednesday, September 29th the Westfield State College MSCA held a protest outside Parenzo Hall. The assembly was commissioned by the Union and titled "Day of Outrage."

The protest was in response to the "two consequetive years of zeroes," said Chapter President Dr. Gerry Tetrault. The Union is grieving the language in a contract proposed by the College of Presidents.

> **"333 or 666 divided by two as I like to call it."**
>
> **-Prof. Tetrault**

The contract language is seen by the Union as an infringement on the "due process and governance," said Tetrault.

The protest consisted of two hours of picketing and one hour of marching down to 333 to meet with President Carwein to voice their concerns.

"333 or 666 divided by two as I like to call it," said Tetrault.

Tetrault, speaking on behalf on the Union said, "We are here to compel President Carwein to implore other Presidents in the College of Presidents to withdraw language that is the central obstacle to the financial package."

"We will not rest until that language is removed from the table," said Tetrault about the proposed contract.

Professor Phillip Hotchkiss said, "Legally our options are limited, we can't hold up campus governance."

There were thirteen professors marching and were greeted by Barry Maloney, Assistant to the President. The President was not on campus.

While in 333 Tetrault told Maloney the Unions fears, "Our concern is that the College of Presidents will use an attractive financial package as quid pro quo in exchange for the language."

The College of Presidents a drafted a letter to Governor Mitt Romney with regards to faculty to

Protest-Page 2

Seniors lauded at Convocation

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

SCANLON-Students from the Class of 2005 at Westfield State College gathered in the Scanlon Banquet Hall last Thursday, September 23 to celebrate their last year at college during their Senior Convocation.

Dr. Robert S. Bristow, Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies, presided over the event and said "Convocation is one of the oldest traditions in academia. At Westfield State College, Convocation has become a celebration for the current class of seniors."

Dr. Vicky Carwein, President of Westfield State College, said that she was glad to share her first year as president with the Class of 2005 and that she was looking forward to their graduation.

"I will be very proud of you when you accept your diplomas in May," she said.

Carwein also said that senior year was the perfect time to remember the past and look to the future. She advised the seniors to stay focused, go to their classes, talk to the faculty and take advantage of career services.

She also added that graduation day wasn't the end and encouraged students to be active alumni saying, "You will always be a part of the Westfield State College family."

-Photo by Abby Tiereny

Dr. Jane Nagle gives the official Convocation Address at Senior Convocation last Thursday, September 23, 2004.

Senior class president, Ashley Zolenski, spoke to her classmates whole-heartedly, reflecting on the past four years and looking towards the future.

"Seniors, take a look around us, this will be the last time we all sit together before graduation," she said. "There are 240 days, what will we do until then?"

Zolenski spoke about how Westfield State College had become "home" for the seniors, saying that anyone who had spent four years at the college will remember the Mass Pike traffic, the Westfield State parking tickets, and driving back towards campus on

Convocation-Page 3

Columnists respond to 'Quioxte's letter to the editor.

pg. 8 & 9

'Mr. 3000'...Three strikes or a homerun?

Read the review on pg. 10

Inside

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Nation/World	Page 5-6
Opinion	Page 7-9
A&E	Page 10-12
Comics	Page 16

Veterans

selves when Jeffrey ripped off his dog tags on Christmas Eve and said, "Don't you know your brother is a murderer?"

Lucey said that Jeffrey told her a story about how he witnessed a young Iraqi boy of six or seven years old get shot in the head and chest. The boy was clutching an American flag. Lucey said her brother couldn't sleep, eat, or even sit in class after witnessing that.

Lucey said her family admitted Jeffrey to the Veteran's Agency and was discharged only four days later. Lucey then said a few months later Jeffrey was found dead in his house and through tears said, "Jeffery's body died at home, but his soul died in Iraq."

Ciano Boyce, a WSC English professor, said that suicides are happening in greater amounts with soldiers from Iraq than any other war in history and we need to help them in anyway we can upon their return.

Frank Ciancotti, the Veteran's Agent in Westfield, said that the goal of the V.A. is to help the returning soldier financially, emotionally, and to help them get their life back together. Ciancotti said, "We need to take care of them much faster. The system just isn't working well enough in time."

Dave Bressem, the director of the Springfield Veteran Center, said, "It's history repeating itself with Vietnam veterans all over again. There are more suicides than there are names on the memorial wall."

Protest

salaries and subsequent pay raises.

The study into the salaries of the Massachusetts State College faculties was commissioned by the College of Presidents in association with the Board of Higher Education.

The letter states "…'The State of the American Dream in Massachusetts' and 'Homeownership in Massachusetts: A New Assessment", Massachusetts ranked 26th in home affordability in 1980, but by 2000, were 60% above the U.S. average…"

The letter continues, "To return to a level of competitiveness with regard to faculty salaries at the State College, we must be realistic in accounting for the high cost of living in Massachusetts."

The study also found that "Full Professors earn an average of $18, 913 less than their peers."

President Carwein is not the only target of the Unions displeasure according to Professor Carl Leiker, "Its also a matter of respect. Governors have always have a terrible attitude towards us and that has not changed over time but worsened with Romney."

The idea of Governor Romney using the Union negotiations as a platform to show that he can handle Unions was stated by Leiker, "He's posturating to the public that he is a union Buster."

Professor Trudy Knowles said, "Ultimately I believe that Mitt Romney is trying to get rid of Unions."

Knowles also said, 'Unions protect our intellectual rights and the ability to create curriculum we think is appropriate."

Along with the protest the Union has agreed to do nothing "above and beyond," what the contract stipulates, according to Knowles.

This includes extra meetings and sponsoring of clubs.

"The Union is trying to figure out the best way to get our messages across to the President," said Knowles

To dine or not to dine, faculty ponders question

October 1st President Carwein is inviting all Department Chairs to a private dinner at her home.

Communication Department Chair Liz Preston is still undecided on whether or not go attend.

"I think we are all on the fence over whether or not to go," said Preston.

Preston, along with all Department heads is being advised not to attend the dinner by the Union.

"I prefer we act with some sense of solidarity," said Gerry Tetrault the Union Chapter President.

"More can be accomplished if we work with her rather than alienate her," said Preston about Union actions towards the President.

The Action Committee, a sub committee of the Union is calling all Department Chairs to not attend.

"I'm trying to give her the benefit of the doubt," said Preston in regards to the Presidents four-month employment at Westfield.

In a previous interview Tetrault said, "The rookie argument doesn't float anymore with me."

Biology Chair, Professor David Doe will not be attending and Computer Science Chair James Curabetta is still undecided.

Professor Preston said about Union disagreements, "In almost every respect we are on the same page. It all comes down to the best way to work with the Administration."

Thumbs Up:

To Dickinson Hall, for being the only hall to have a flawless Hall Council election. Apparently the other halls are still examining their chads.

Thumbs Down:

To Quixotes communal nacho trough. Even the Frito Bandito frowns upon double dipping and the spread of communicable diseases.

From the Editors Desk

It's 1:30A.M. on a Thursday morning and I've been asked to write the Editor's Desk. Not only is there pressure in the fact that this is my first Editor's Desk, but seeing as we have to send the paper out before we leave the office this morning, I am forced to think of something clever to write about quickly...

The first thing that comes to my mind is a column written last week by David Pageau entitled, "This just in! Females good, feminism bad." Now most of you might assume that, being a woman, I would be offended by such a column, but it's quite the contrary. I'm proud to say that I'm one of the "free-thinking women who think that feminism is a bunch of liberal bull," as David so beautifully wrote.

Don't get me wrong, I'm definitely not the type of woman you'd see chasing her kids through the playground and getting dinner on the table for the hubby by five, in fact, I can't cook a thing and the idea of having children, anytime in the future, scares the hell out of me. I've always considered myself an "Independent Woman" and totally believe that women can do anything just as well as men...but all this fighting and protesting to be considered equal just seems ironic to me.

The way I see it, fighting for the cause just sets us more apart fro men. The only thing accomplished through feminism is fear, the fear of women. If a man is chosen over a woman for a job, it is automatically assumed that the decision was gender related. If a male were to hire another male, it would be seen as sexist, but if a female hires a male is that sexist? And what about if a female hires another female?

I just don't see what sitting around and whiny about equality will accomplish. The only way to be equal to men is to prove that we're equal to men. Fighting to get our way doesn't say anything about women but that we expect to get special treatment because we're women, which is exactly what feminists claim to be against.

The only way to get what you want is to work for it, whether you be male, female, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Catholic, Protestant, Pagan or whatever it is that you are. Rather than waste time complaining about inequality, prove it. Get something because you deserve it, not because a quota says you have to have it...

Lisandra Billings
News Editor
theeampusvoice@hotmail.com

Corrective Action

It measures how well students are mastering the specific skills defined for each grade by the state of Massachusetts.

At Abner Gibbs, and all public statewide elementary schools, grade three is accessed on reading, grade four on English and math, and grade five on science and technology. Of the 211 students at Abner Gibbs, 63 percent are either in need of improvement or failing reading, 75 percent in English, 86 percent in math, and 60 percent in science and technology.

These "corrective actions" are based on the English and math tests. The science and technology portions are still a work in progress.

Many WSC education majors taking Principles of Teaching and Learning student-teach at Abner Gibbs over the course of the semester for 30 hours total. They are assigned to a grade concerning their particular area of studies, and each must coordinate three lesson plans.

Teachers at Abner Gibbs are concerned about the bad test scores on the MCAS exams. They are finding ways to start with the younger kids to help boost MCAS scores in the future.

"There is less social studies and science focus because of the horrible MCAS scores," said Jess Han, WSC junior and first grade student-teacher at Abner Gibbs.

Teachers are struggling to follow the state's curriculum while attempting to achieve proficient test scores.

"The Massachusetts curriculum frameworks for social studies and science," Hart said, "they are supposed to meet that. I don't know how they can get around that."

"I think that the MCAS is pointless if they are teaching for the test," said Anna Leonardo, WSC junior and fifth grade student-teacher at Abner Gibbs. "History and science are just as important and they really are ignoring them."

Four schools in Springfield and one in Holyoke also received the same "corrective action." In addition, eight schools in Springfield and one in Holyoke will be targeted for "restructuring" after failing to meet general student performance targets for the fifth consecutive year.

> **"I think that the MSCAS is pointless if they are teaching for the test. History and science are just as important and they really are ignoring them."**
> **-Anna Leonardo**

"There's no question that there are schools that need help and focusing on them is good," said Catherine A. Boudreau, president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. "But this mislabels schools that are very good…It doesn't send a good message."

These actions are taken out due to provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. It affirms that all states must issue a yearly report on student performance in every school and district.

"Abner Gibbs is referred to over and over again as the 'gem' of the Westfield Schools," said Margaret Adams, principal of Abner Gibbs.

Abner Gibbs has one more year to "restructure" before the state comes in to do it for them. If that does happen, teachers and administrators could be replaced.

Convocation

Western Avenue.

Zolenski stressed to her classmates that it was their last year at the school, saying that they should make senior year the best by participating in the many activities planned for the Class of 2005, including Senior Nights and Senior BBQ's.

Zolenski added, "Saying goodbye to four years of friendship will be hard," but encouraged her classmates to "make every moment count," saying, "The work never ends, but college does."

Jack Doherty, a graduate from the class of 1990, spoke on behalf of the Alumni Association.

Doherty reminisced about his days at Westfield State College, especially his time on the football team. Doherty said that in the four years he was on the team he only started in one game but he never gave up.

Doherty, now founder and president of College Hype, a company that provides organizations with apparel and uniforms(www.thecorporatechoice.com/collegehype), said he first began selling T-shirts as a student at Westfield State to make extra money and now his company makes more than 10,000 T-shirts a week.

"Work hard, work smart and it's guaranteed you'll do well," he said.

The official Convocation Address was given by Dr. Jane Nagle, an education professor at Westfield State.

Nagle said speaking at Convocation was the highlight of her professional career, "I feel like I've won the Oscar."

Nagle spoke very highly of the students at Westfield State, saying that in all of her years at the school she had never left a class where a student didn't offer her some insight or changed her views on a matter.

She spoke particularly about the Class of 2005, saying that they didn't realize that they were intellectuals.

> **"There are hero's in the class who will never be on the cover of Time Magazine but who represent, in my eyes, the hero's of this country."**
> **-Dr. Jane Nagle**

"You're young scholars and the teachers at this college appreciate what you bring to this school," she said.

Nagle commended the class on making it so far under various difficult circumstances.

She reminded the audience of 9/11, pointing out that it was freshmen year for the Class of 2005 and that for an already nervous college freshmen, that was a lot to deal with.

Nagle also spoke about the individual stories of some of her students and how much some of them had to overcome just to graduate this spring.

"There are hero's in this class who will never be on the cover of Time Magazine but who represent, in my eyes, the hero's of this country," she said.

Nagle said that she was particularly impressed oy how much the Class of 2005 had done for the college saying, "You do this work without calling attention to yourselves."

Nagle said that the class held many of the school's "artists, actors, dancers, musicians and writers who's talents enrich our college," and that it these students as well as those active in student government and community service, that made other students want to come to Westfield State College.

Nagle ended her speech with a slew of her famous "Janeisms," words of inspiration she has created throughout the years.

"Don't put so much pressure on yourself that you lose the joy of this year," she said. "Cause it will go by very fast."

-Photo by Bob McDonald

Phil Maney surveys the year's first Senior Night, held on Friday, September 24, 2004 in the Third World Room. Activites included beruit, a card name whose name is not fit to print and a massive game of flip cup pictured here.

Voice of the Week

Skot Pierce

Role at WSC: Production Manager for WSKB

Number of Years at WSC: This will be his third year

Favorite Thing About WSC: How close knit it is I guess.

Favorite Movie: Any Kevin Smith movie

Favorite T.V. Show: I don't have time for T.V.

Favorite Quote: "If practice makes perfect and nobody's perfect, then why practice?" -Billy Corgan

Who would win in a fight, 'In Flames' or 'Devil Driver'? (Skot's favorite metal bands)

"There wouldn't be a clear victor, they'd tear eachother to shreds."

Compiled by: Matthew Bernat

Republicans

Thirteen students, all ages and genders represented, filled the chairs around a large table, ready to tackle anything that would be thrown their way. The club's advisor Professor Gerald Healey of the Business Management department, was absent that night.

The club considered the amount of people in attendance a great success, though they were starting from scratch. One student even proclaimed it to be a "victory."

Junior Alex Trzasko, a history and education major, and also president of the club, took charge by having everyone introduce themselves and begin to discuss with the other members what the real purpose of the new club would be.

"Everyone has been speculating as to what evil we're coming up with," he said. One student kiddingly suggested working on a secret handshake.

The pre-existing constitution was the first order of business of the meeting. It was reported that it could be changed if all agreed on doing so. However, no changes were made at that time.

One of the main activities that the Republican club wants to get involved with is helping along local campaigns and their Republican candidates. Junior David Pageau, who is also the campus director of the club said, "We are going to work on our relations with students, faculty, and other clubs. By no means do we want to be segregated or distance ourselves from other groups on campus. We are actually really looking forward to it." Suggestions of working phone drives, grassroots campaigning, and promoting voter registration were spoken of.

One member mentioned his recent involvement with Travis Chaput, who is running for State Senate in Hampden County. He encouraged other members to stand out for the polls on October 16, in support of the candidate.

Representation at the September 30 voter registration rally was also mentioned. All members seemed to agree that they felt as though they should be a part of the action.

Fundraising was touched upon and the suggestion of raising money to erect a memorial in honor of President Ronald Reagan was considered.

Opposition was something members were slightly concerned about. It was stated in the constitution that the club was open to any student, regardless of political leaning. One person voiced hesitation to allowing anyone other than supporters of the Republican party, to prevent any mishaps or arguments. The idea was shot down, and it was decided to remain open to all majors, political leanings and genders.

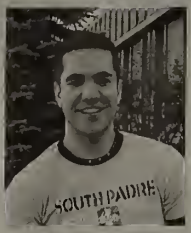
Healey had once mentioned to Trzasko that the way to deal with opposition is to "say everything with a smile." Members of the club found it very surprising that so many had shown up, and none in dissent. Talk of fliers advertising the first meeting being torn down or defaced floated around the room. On one particular flier stating France's contempt of the United States someone wrote "So send the Statue of Liberty back!"

The club also discussed bringing in speakers for the whole campus to witness.

The Republican club will continue to meet once every two weeks, with their next meeting being on October 13, upstairs in Ely. Expect controversy, conversation, and lots of fruit.

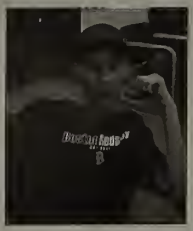
Voices Overheard

What is your first impression of Westfield?



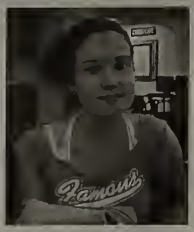
Matt Rizoli
Class of 2008
Business

"I spend more time in Subway than my room."



Dylan Kelleher
Class of 2008
Business

"Homey."



Mary Kate Gilrein
Class of 2008
Political Science

"I enjoy the freedom and I like how there's a lot of ways to get involved.."

Jeremy Boettcher
Class of 2006
Music Composition

"Its big and friendly."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

T's

Quality silk screened goods

Corey W. Degon

P.O. Box 306
Three Rivers, MA 10180

Phone: 413-433-0489
Fax: 413-283-8257
E-mail: degonscustomts@yahoo.com
Website: www.degonscustomts.com

Campaigns Agree on Debate Parameters

BY MATEA GOLD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Voters tuning into the first presidential debate Thursday may be anticipating a free wheeling give-and-take between the two candidates, but the occasion will actually be one of the most carefully structured events of the 2004 campaign.

The rules for the three presidential debates were negotiated by representatives of Sen. John F. Kerry and President Bush in a 32-page memorandum of understanding and leave little room for spontaneity.

They specify, among other things, that the candidates may not pose questions directly to each other and require the debate moderators to use specific language when cutting off long-winded answers.

The two campaigns haggled over the temperature in the room, how far the men could wander from their lecterns and how a colored light will alert them when they've gone over their allotted time. The candidates may bring paper and pens or pencils, but all must be submitted ahead of time so the items can be placed on the lecterns, each constructed and placed to Kerry-Bush specifications.

While past campaigns made similar agreements, the 2004 debate rules between Kerry and Bush are the most detailed and far-reaching of any election, and have rankled political observers who say the candidates are attempting to control media coverage.

According to the agreement, which also covers the vice presidential debate on Oct. 5, television cameras would not be permitted to show one candidate while the other is speaking or broadcast images of the audience's response -- prohibitions the networks have rejected.Political experts said the campaigns' micro-management of the debates undermines their value.

"This is a parody of what real civic give-and-take is and could be in America," said Martin Kaplan, director of the University of Southern California's Norman Lear Center, which studies the intersection of politics and entertainment.

"What we're desperate for is some really serious discussion, beyond the sound bites, about the problems the country is facing," he said. "Instead, what we've guaranteed is an exchange of bumper sticker slogans."

The nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, which sponsors and produces the events, has not signed the agreement, as requested by the Kerry and Bush campaigns. But in a statement posted on its Website Monday, the commission said it will enforce the guidelines, and not depart from them without the approval of the campaigns.The campaigns are insisting that the moderators also sign the agreement, or risk being replaced. ABC said Charles Gibson, who is scheduled the moderate the second date on Oct. 8 in St. Louis, will not do so.

Whether Jim Lehrer of PBS, who is to moderate the first matchup between Kerry and Bush in Coral Gables, Fla., on Thursday, and the two other moderators will go along with the campaigns' demands remains unclear. Network officials indicated that they do not believe they will.

The carefully crafted rules are part of a larger effort by both campaigns to control the image and impressions of each candidate, as well as cut down on the element of surprise.

"It basically is ensuring that there will be a healthy exchange of ideas, there'll be a lot of topics covered ... no gimmicks, no tricks, no sudden surprises, so that we really can have a debate that's dominated by the issues," Bush senior advisor Karen Hughes told ABC News Radio Tuesday.

Both sides brought in political heavyweights to lead the negotiations: powerhouse Washington attorney Vernon Jordan for Kerry and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III for Bush.

"They're trying to take into accouct all the contingencies," said Zachary White, assistant professor of communication studies at the University of San Francisco. "They don't want anything to be left to chance so the voters will fill in the gaps themselves."

The podiums each will measure 50 inches, and be set 10 feet apart -- enough distance so the president's shorter stature will not create a strong contrast with his lanky rival. And "no candidate shall be permitted to use risers or any other device to create an impression of elevated height," according to the memorandum.

One issue that remains somewhat unresolved: the temperature in the room. The Bush campaign wanted it above 70 degrees, huping to get Kerry to break out in a sweat, while the Democrats were pushing for a cooler ambience. In the end, they settled on "industry standard."

The most controversial provision in the memorandum attempts to prevent the television networks from broadcasting the reaction of either candidate as the other is speaking. According to those familiar with the negotiations, the president's reelection team wanted the stipulation, which Bush also insisted upon during his 1994 debate with Texas Gov. Ann Richards.

Television networks have balked at such restriction sand refused to comply.

"We are not subject to agreements between the candidates," said Barbara Levin, a spokeswoman for NBC News. "We will use pictures as we see fit."Media experts said that the requirement infringes on journalistic freedom.

"Sometimes the expression of opinion or the reaction to differences is an essential piece of the story," said Bob Steele, senior ethics faculty at the Poynter Institute. "To restrict video or still images of one candidate reacting to what the other has to say is exceptionally problematic."

Staff Slip Gives Liquor to Children at Private School

BY VALERIE STRAUSS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--It was not the sort of letter a school delights in sending home to its families.

"Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Parents:

"It is with great regret that I tell you that your child may have been exposed to alcohol today at lunch," said the missive signed by Alexander Harvey IV, head of the private Alexandria Country Day School.

It was tequila and margarita mix, to be precise, left in the refrigerator in a pitcher and mistaken for limeade by kitchen staff, who poured it into small cups and served it to children as a lunch treat, he wrote.

Some youngsters didn't like the smell and declined; others took a sip and declared it "gross," according to parents and Harvey.

An administrator who realized something was wrong started investigating, Harvey said, and quickly discovered that the limeade was really liquor--although it is unclear why the kitchen staff didn't notice. It had been left over, he said, from a party two days earlier at the school for the staff, faculty and Board of Trustees.

The cups were collected, teachers were told and students were observed for any ill effects. There were none, Harvey said; the most any child took was believed to be a few sips because no cup was close to being emptied. The episode, he said, left him mortified.

"I am embarrassed and deeply sorry that this happened," Harvey wrote in the letter, adding that liquor was immediately banned on campus--a policy already set at many schools--and that all future faculty parties would be off school grounds. He also spoke with staff about health issues involved with serving children food or drink from open containers.

Alexandria police spokeswoman Amy Bertsch said nobody informed the police. Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel said that "while it's true procuring alcohol for someone under the legal age of 21 is illegal," the incident would not rise to the level of criminal conduct because the kitchen staff members did not know they were serving alcohol. He said it sounded like "an innocent mistake."

Harvey told parents in the letter that everybody in the school, with 240 students from kindergarten through eighth grade who pay tuition from $14,200 to $15,600, was informed the same day, Sept. 10.

"We ask the students to be honest and admit their mistakes, and we should do the same," the letter said.

Parents learned about the episode that day when their children came home talking about it and carrying Harvey's letter.

Bill Paxson, a former U.S. congressman who has two children at the school, said Tuesday that his third-grader was "very excited about it."

"Her words were, `Something really fun and illegal happened today at school.' Then she proceeded to say what happened. She said it was gross and disgusting stuff. ... She said she tasted it and it was so disgusting she couldn't drink it."

Paxson said he was pleased with the school's reaction.

"They handled it in a textbook way," he said.

Kim McKernan, vice president of the Parent-Teacher League, said Tuesday that she heard parents praising Harvey for addressing the situation "so quickly and honestly" and that nobody she knew had questioned why the staff did not realize alcohol was being served.

Harvey said he received no complaints from parents.

Red Sox Beat Devil Rays 10-8

BY DAVID HEUSCHKEL
THE HARTFORD COURANT

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – There was no letdown and nobody was hung over from a celebration the previous night, when the Boston Red Sox clinched a playoff berth.

"We're a bunch of idiots," center fielder Johnny Damon said. "But we're grown-up idiots."

Kevin Millar, one of the head idiots, hit a two-run home run in the 11th to give the Red Sox a 10-8 victory over the Devil Rays at Trupicana Field.

The Red Sox's fourth consecutive victory moved them to within 2 1/2 games (two in the loss column) behind the New York Yankees.

The Red Sox bullpen combined to retire 16 of the last 17 hitters. Ramiro Mendoza, one of six relievers used by Manager Terry Francona, pitched two perfect innings to earn the victory.

"Mendoza had a little tweak in his (hamstring) or something, so we couldn't send him back out," Francona said. "We ended up not needing to."

With two out in the 11th, David Ortiz (3-for-5) doubled, and Millar drove an 0-and-1 fastball from Danys Baez into the left-field seats for his 18th home run.

After the game, Millar lifted his shirt to reveal two large bruises on his left side. He got hit Monday and Tuesday in almost the same place with fastballs.

"One 97 and one 90," Millar said. "If Baez hit me, I was going to the hospital."

A week from now, Derek Lowe might be headed to the bullpen.

In what amounted to an audition for a spot in the rotation in the Division Series, Lowe did not make a strong case. It was as if he morphed back into the pitcher who struggled throughout the first half.

Lowe was tagged for five runs and eight hits in 2 1/3 innings, extending his winless streak to four starts.

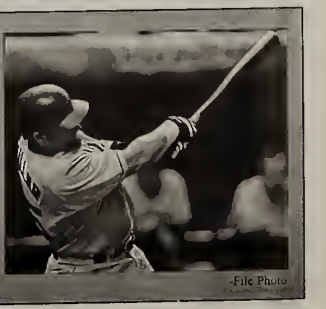
"People remember the last month, as well they should," Lowe said. "The decision is going to be made at some point. All I know as a team we're going to the playoffs. That's the most important thing."

Francona said he removed Lowe because of a blister.

But Lowe, who allowed 10 of the 15 batters he faced to reach, said the blister was not a problem.

"It was just poor pitching," he said.

Lowe (14-12) has now been roughed up in three consecutive starts. He has allowed 15 earned runs in 8 1/3 innings. His 5.43 ERA is among the highest by American League starting pitchers.



Kevin Miller of the Boston Red Sox delievered a two-run home run in the 11th inning to give the Sox a 10-8 victory over the Devil Rays at their game last Tuesday, September 28, 2004. The victory over the Devil Rays puts the Sox 2 1/2 games behind the New York Yankees.

-File Photo

6.0 Quake Strikes Central California

By Richard Fausset
Megan Garvey
Los Angeles Times

PARKFIELD, Calif.–The San Andreas Fault let loose with a 6.0 magnitude earthquake Tuesday morning centered in rural Monterey County, fraying nerves and toppling teacups but otherwise causing little damage while providing seismologists with perhaps more data than any temblor in history.

With its epicenter near this town of population 37, the "strong" temblor struck at 10:15 a.m. It began with minor rumblings, grew to a shaking and eventually full undulations of the earth over the next half-minute, residents said.

George Jewell, 63, a stocky retired tractor driver who has lived in the area off and on for 50 years, was walking near the trailer that serves as the community library at 10:15.

And then he wasn't.

"Yeah, it knocked me on the ground," Jewell said. "I never been knocked on the ground by anyone or anything before. I got punched real good in Vegas one time, and it didn't knock me down that good."

People over a 350-mile stretch of California, from Orange County to Sacramento, reported feeling the quake. More than 150 aftershocks followed the temblor, including one with a magnitude of 5.0, which is considered moderate, and four others of 4.1 or higher.

Geologists attributed the relatively minor damage to California's strict, earthquake-minded building codes and to the fact that the temblor struck in a rural area.

Although 57 people died in the 6.7 Northridge quake in 1994 – which prompted even stricter building requirements – some 35,000 died in Bam, Iran, last December when a 6.6 magnitudge quake demolished 85 percent of the city's mostly mud-and-straw buildings.

As John Varian, owner of the Parkfield Inn, put it: "There's no skyscrapers to fall down, so it's never a big deal."

Tuesday's quake, which was located at the seismically shallow depth of 4.9 miles, was of a type known as a "slip-strike" quake, which causes the ground to move horizontally, geologists said. The shift could lead to another quake of similar or larger size along the same fault line, but scientists placed the likelihood of that at between 5 percent and 10 percent.

One of the most seismically active regions in the world – and packed with more seismic instruments than any similar site – the Parkfield area is home to residents accustomed to bolting paintings to the walls, securing glassware with double-sided tape and trying to make a buck off the ever-impending "Big One."

"Eat here when it happens!" advertises the Parkfield Cafe, where $15.95 will buy you the "Magnitude 6! top sirloin. "Sleep here when it happens!" beckons Varian's Parkfield Inn.

"Yeah, it knocked me on the ground," Jewell said. "I never been knocked on the ground by anyone or anything before. I got punched real good in Vegas one time, and it didn't knock me down that good."
-George Jewell

Although the quake caused relatively minor damage, a few partially crumbled ceilings and chimneys and the fresh memory of a magnitude 6.5 temblor San Simeon quake that killed two people last December in Paso Robles, 27 miles to the southeast, made Tuesday's quake especially jarring for some.

At the Work Family Ranch near Parkfield, the ceiling of the adobe house Kelley Work's grandfather had built in 1933 partially caved in and vases and pictures smashed to the floor, forcing the Works to take up residence in a guest house on the property.

"I'm done being in this house," Work said. "It scares me to death."

Emotions were similarly strained in Paso Robles.

"We just had the you-know-what scared out of us again," said Norma More, executive director of Paso Robles' Main Street Association. "But no damage so far. I just checked my two-story Victorian house. I'm in the process of repairing the cracks from the last one, and there aren't any new ones I could see."

Although a mounted deer head fell from the wall at the V6 Ranch near Parkfield and various delicate items toppled and broke from Paso Robles in the southwest to Coalinga in the northeast, everyone seemed to agree that this earthquake was a minor inconvenience compared with the December temblor. That quake caused $100 million in damage.

"A piece of cake," said Marcia Colbert, 70, who tends the cash register at the Park Street Antique Mall in Paso Robles. The December quake shattered the front windows, toppled pricey antiques and set off the building's sprinkler system, causing $30,000 in damage.

On Tuesday, Colbert pointed at a wall almost entirely covered with mirrors. "All those mirrors were just swinging back and forth," she said. "But they all held."

The historic San Miguel Mission Parish, which was heavily damaged last December, also appeared intact Tuesday.

"I didn't see any dust on my desk," said mission office manager Maria Payeur. "Comparing it with the one in December – there was no comparison."

The San Andreas Fault, a grinding intersection of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates, runs through 800 miles of the state. Parkfield is situated at an intersection within that intersection, a site where a moving portion in the fault meets an unmoving one.

Between the mid-19th century and mid-20th century, Parkfield experienced a 6.0 magnitude quake every 22 years, on average – a regularity good enough in the unpredictable realm of seismology to prompt scientists to begin the Parkfield Experiment two decades ago.

Over the years they have filled the hills and dales, cracks and crevasses with hondreds of instruments – seismometers, "creepometers," strain meters, global satellite positioning markers and nearly every other device used to study seismic movements both dramatic and subtle.

To place monitoring equipment even closer to the seismic action, the U.S. Geological Survey in June began drilling a two-mile shaft directly into the fault.

The last 6.0 quake in the area occurred in 1966, so scientists began to get their hopes up in the mid-1980's – 1988 being the 22-year mark. But the 1980s came and went, and then the 1990s, and then the first 3 1/2 years of a new millennium.

Tuesday's quake may well become the most-studied quake in history, scientists said.

"We expect to learn a lot, to get a lot of data from this earthquake," said California Institute of Technology seismologist Kate Hutton.

Andy Snyder, the USGS geologist based in Parkfield, was being mobbed by reporters Tuesday outside his small office near the Parkfield Cafe.

50 is Looking Better Than Ever For Bill

By Emma Schwartz
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON – The green is still there, but with touches of blue, red and yellow. A stylized image of the Stars and Stripes now waves in the background. But even after the face lift, $50 is still worth $50.

The U.S. Treasury sent its latest redesigned greenback into circulation Tuesday, part of an effort to combat counterfeiters, as officials gathered at Union Station to make the first official purchase – a U.S. flag that cost $45.

The new note "represents the latest step in an effort to stay ahead of counterfeit currency," said Thomas Ferguson, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The first multicolored bill, a $20, made its debut in October.

The $50 bill includes added security features: ink that appears to change from copper to green with movement, a security thread embedded in the paper that spells out the denomination of the bill and a watermark image of Ulysses S. Grant. There also are tiny yellow 50s printed on the back, which officials say are harder to duplicate.

Much remains from the old $50: The portrait of Grant, the 18th president of the United States, still sits at the front center. And a picture of the Capitol remains on the back.

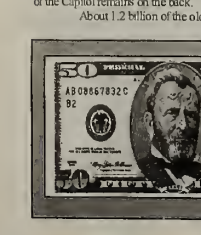
About 1.2 billion of the old $50 notes are in circulation worldwide, and will continue to be used until they wear out. In the coming months, the Federal Reserve will release more than 76.8 million new $50 bills.

The Treasury expects to unveil a new $10 bill by the spring and is working on plans for a new $100; the $1, $2 and $5 notes will remain the same.

In 2003, the government seized $63 million in counterfeit notes before they went into circulation and found $38 million already in use. Most of that was in $20s, the most heavily counterfeited currency. Abroad, $100 bills make up the bulk of copycat money. Only 1 in 25,000 $50 bills are counterfeit.

Officials said the latest changes were aimed at the rise in digitally produced counterfeits, which have surged from 1 percent of all counterfeit money in 1995 to 40 percent today. Despite the improved technology, however, the amount of fake money circulating has remained constant in recent years – no more than 0.02 percent of the more than $700 billion U.S. dollars in circulation, according to the Secret Service.

Dawn Haley, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, said the redesign was an important part of staying ahead of counterfeiters. As part of that effort, the U.S. Treasury plans to issue new money every seven to 10 years.



-File Photo

The current $50 bill (seen at left) has been given a make-over in attempts to stay ahead of counterfeit currency.

Marine Killed in Iraq After Surprise Trip Home

By Martin C. Evans
Newsday

Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Mateo surprised everyone with a sudden visit from Iraq early this month.

First, he went to his mother's workplace, stood silently behind her as her colleagues beamed, and savored the expression on her face when she turned around. Then, in a gleeful succession of lightning-strike visits, he surprised other members of his family scattered throughout the area on Long Island, N.Y.

Mateo's arrival sparked two weeks of partying, as friends and relatives fed him longed-for rice and beans, lubricated his spirits with alcoholic libations and showered him with love.

Then, just as suddenly, he was gone.

Now, family and friends are struggling to come to grips with the idea that Mateo will not be coming home again.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet, because he was here only a week ago," said his sister, Sonia Rivera, 28, of Bay Shore. "It was almost as if God sent him one more time to say goodbye."

One week after he returned to Iraq from a two-week leave here, Mateo, 20, died Friday, becoming the third Brentwood High School graduate to die in that part of the world since President Bush sent troops there.

Monday, members of his family who gathered at his Brentwood home tried to make sense of his death, a half a world away in Iraq.

"He was a baby, only 20 years old," said his father, Pedro Mateo of Bay Shore. "He came home, had a good time, then 'bang,' that was it."

Mateo, who married in May 2003, left for Iraq in February, and had just returned for another seven-month hitch there when he was killed.

He was mortally wounded while helping provide security for a convoy west of Baghdad, family members said.

"He wanted to make his family proud, and for his cousins to look up to him," said his wife, Concetta, a Suffolk County Community College student.

"The last words I said to him before he left was, 'God bless you,' and he said, 'Don't worry, I'll be back," Miguel Rivera said. "But it never happened."
-Miguel Rivera

Brentwood principal Thomas O'Brien said that, in some ways, Mateo typifies the youth of Brentwood – a Suffolk County hamlet with large numbers of working-class white, Hispanic and black residents. Many of them turn to the military, hoping to convert stints in the armed forces into tickets to a better life.

Mateo's stepfather, Miguel Rivera of Brentwood, who works at a Huntington, N.Y., car dealership, said Mateo had hoped to use his military training to become a diesel mechanic.

Mateo had even spent time during his last days on Long Island helping to repair his wife's car. "He was doing what he wanted to do," Miguel Rivera said. "He wanted to make a career of it."

"The last words I said to him before he left was, 'God bless you,' and he said, 'Don't worry, I'll be back,'" Miguel Rivera said. "But it never happened."

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

"A Voice of My Own"

Well, if it's one thing I hate, it's a hypocrite. What's worse than that is a hypocrite with power. But boy, do I love drama! So here I am, stirring some up for Ms. Emily Engel, Editor-in-Chief of The Voice. Now, Emily is this hypocrite I was talking about. Here she is, all high and mighty; preachin' to the masses about how complaining is just a huge waste of time. But how does she go about doing this? By complaining about a couple of freshmen. Now, sometimes I'm not such a big fan of them myself, but guess what folks, I was one, just a few years ago. . . oh, around the same exact year that Emily was, too. I want to point out Emily's article, "Baby, you ain't seen nothin' yet" in the September 20 edition of The Voice. It is about a letter of complaint she received about a space filling, tasteless horoscope meant as humor. Personally, I know nothing about this horoscope, so I have no opinion on it. My opinion is that Ms. Queen Bee needs an infallibility check.

So this freshman here, complains against these horoscopes, you know, writing a letter to the editor, getting involved, getting the opinion out there. . . which is what we encourage people to do right? It is, after all, called The Voice for a reason. Does Westfield have one voice? My opinion certainly diverges from others at this school in many respects.

Now, knowing Emily as I do, I know that if I sent this to her for publication, she would rip it up and refuse to publish it, because it does not put her in the best light. However, she herself says in this article, "Where do I even begin to trash that person?" So, one of the things she "trashes" is the fact that this freshman didn't use spell check. Well take your own advice, Emily! It would be one thing if you weren't the Editor, but you are. The first word you wrote in this very article happens to be "Anoter". Well, I suppose I could end right there if I wanted to, having made my point, but there's so much more evidence to show! She says in this article, "this person actually took the time out of their busy schedule to copy and highlight all of the parts in which he or she saw offensive", Well, I have a few things to say about that. Did you not, Emily, also say that you "immediately wrote a rebuttle"? (Which, by the way, is spelled rebuttal) Did you not write an entire article and publish it so the whole school to see, including this freshman's name so that you could ruin her credibility and possibly her reputation in her first few weeks of being in college? Well, if you wanted to hurt someone or make someone angry, you did it. Hey! Probably more than one person, as a matter of fact. You did succeed with me. By writing this article, you are encouraging the entire population of Westfield State College to 'sit down, shut up, and enjoy the ride' if they disagree with you. Is that what college prepares us for? I'm sorry, but I've never heard anyone else here say that to me. It was always "stand up for your rights. Get involved. Get your opinion and your voice heard!" And isn't that why we have The Voice? Well Emily, it's not just your voice anymore.

- Jolene Wagner

To the Editors:

I was reading this weeks issue of The Voice, when I noticed the "letters to the editors" section, the one where some girl was complaining about the Horoscopes in last weeks issue, and it gave me quite the laugh. The whole complaining about the horoscopes thing was dumb, but what was even dumber was Emily Engel's response to it. No offense, but you misspelled the very first word in your response; how does someone working for the paper do that? Human error, sure, but that wasn't the only error made. I'm not one to pick on spelling errors, but seeing as your whole article was based on bashing some girl and using the mistakes she had made to rag on her, I figured someone had to say what everyone else is thinking. You need to take your own advice. "Using good spelling and grammar makes a lot of difference to the reader." You only made yourself look like a fool by ragging on some girl and her poor grammar, when you had misspelled words and used poor grammar in half of your paragraphs. But hey, I'm not the editor, I guess as long as you had that good laugh before "the leters was misplaced," then that's all that really matters. I know I had a good laugh after reading your sloppy response.

- Mary McCormick

To the Editors:

This is in response to last weeks opinion article, "Got A light?" which I found is an offensive tirade against smokers. Therefore, I wish to express my own opinion on this side of the issue.

"Don't you just love sucking down a cigarette? After a long day of classes, the suo is beginning to set and you just feel like standing outside on a beautiful, crisp fall evening...Don't you just love that feeling you get? That rush? That relief? And at the moment, the nanosecond between holding your breath and letting it all out, you are at peace with the world and all of God's creations...Wait...are you nodding?"

YES! In fact i am. I am a smoker and I am proud of it.

I have issues with Mr. George's article. My main issue is Mr. George stereotypes all smokers in a condescending manner. He describes a group of smokers as looking like "a fifteen minute break at an AA meeting." He also states "they hang out in packs like wolves. And like canines, we should strap electric collars on them with the invisible trigger set to shock ten when they get within 25 feet from all campus buildings." Excuse me? Last time I checked we were human, not dogs. Maybe the non-smokers should have collars attached to them and shock them every time they complain that we are smoking. See the ridiculousness?

We as citizens of the US have the right to choose what we do. We are given that choice by the constitution. If someone chooses to smoke, that is their right. Smokers should be respectful to non-smokers, but respect works both ways! I respect you, you respect me. I respect the 25-foot rule for residence buildings every time I smoke a cigarette, and I know several other smokers that do as well. If someone isn't obeying the 25 foot rule, and it bothers you, public safety's extension is 5262, let them know the building and explain that a group of smokers are not obeying the 25 foot rule. I am sure they will be glad to send either an ISO officer or a Campus Police officer to ask the "pack of wolves" to move to the 25-foot mark.

- Cassie
GM of WSKB

To the Editors (and fellow students):

I am commenting on an op-ed piece from The Voice, 9/27/04, Volume X, Issue IV titled "This Just In! Females Good, Feminism Bad" by David Pageau. I would like to begin by saying that I appreciate the fact that students are brave enough to write things that some might consider "outside the box".

With that said, I am grateful that we have the chance to respond. Dave, what were you thinking?

I am disturbed by your piece because I think that when you judge a group of people because they don't agree with what you think you're on a slippery slope. On the most basic level I feel that feminists are women that believe that knowledge of women's accomplishments, setbacks, struggles, etc. is empowering to all.

You said, "that you have had entire sections of classes devoted to women in numerous parts of history" which I think is fantastic, but I will tell you that I am almost thirty years old and haven't had the same experience. For example it wasn't until the Women's Studies course that I'm in now that I learned about when women received the right to vote, who Susan B. Anthony or Elizabeth Cady Stanton were, or that my reproductive rights might be in jeopardy with the upcoming election. I never even knew there was a Women's Hall of Fame. Do you? Probably not, but I'm sure (like me) you know where the Baseball or Football Hall of fame are (in case you're wondering it's in Seneca Falls, NY or at www.greatwomen.org).

Not only did you knock feminists, but also you chose to slam the fact that we call them 'women studies' courses instead of 'equality studies'. The fact of the matter is... women is what the course is about... just like 'Hispanic Cultures in the US' is about Hispanics, 'Black American Literature' is about African-American authors, and "Gay and Lesbian Studies" is about gay and lesbian issues. 'Women's Studies' is just that... a course that either gender can take to learn more about women's issues. And maybe when men and women are truly equal the name of the course will change.

But until then I think women need to ignore ignorant people, learn about issues that affect our gender, and get out and vote.

- Jill Monson
Class of 2005

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THE VOICE
PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Revolvio Del Frito Bandito

"THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE"
BY PETE NORWOOD
VOICE COLUMNIST

Writing columns for *The Voice* is not the only way I keep myself involved on campus. I am also a part of an organization known as the Latino Association For Empowerment (LAFE). Last week during our regular Tuesday meeting, we addressed a letter written by Mr. Aurelio Sanchez (who coincidentally is also the assistant director of the Urban Education program, another organization to which I can claim membership). This letter spoke of his concern for the "negative image" that the Quixote's mascot puts forth for the Mexican-American community. We were asked by Aurelio to write a letter to The Voice stating our concern for what the "Frito Bandito" could do to the Latino community. This request made sense to me on certain levels, while on others, it simply had me dazed and confused.

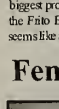
Firstly, I am not Mexican-American, or for that matter, Latino, but I do understand why Mr. Sanchez feels that the Frito Bandito is an "offensive stereotype" for the Mexican-American community. I was not the only one in the group who felt writing a letter in protest to the mascot was a bad idea. I am an advocate for the freedom of speech. Therefore, it is not my perrogative to tell anyone not to use any symbol for any reason.

If I was to go forward with writing a letter of protest to *The Voice*, I might as well have told the editors to disregard anything I said in any of my articles because I am just writing it for attention. This, however, is not the case. When I feel something is wrong and I state so, I do so, partially to let people know how I feel and partially because I love writing. I think my biggest problem in understanding why it is that the Frito Bandito is offensive is that it really seems like an innocent cartoon. Why is it that a group of people such as the Mexican-Americans would be offended by a little cartoon man who resembles Speedy Gonzalez? Why would they not be offended by Speedy himself (or more accurately, Speedy's creators) or perhaps even the TacoBell dng.

I was told in high school time and time again that I needed to learn which battles were worth fighting instead of fighting everything my teachers ever told me to do. It would seem that this holds true for other people as well, but to offend you, Mr. Sanchez. Before I came to WSC, I had never even heard of Quixote's and I am sure there are many people just like me who have never heard of this "Tex-Mex" establishment. As compared to certain other figures used very frequently that receive national media attention, the Frito Bandito is but "dust in the wind." Not that I condone offensive stereo-typing of any sort, I myself am quite often referred to as "the white boy." This could be considered offensive, but the point is, I realize that this is how people relate certain ideas to one another. If I am talking to my brothers in the hills about a friend of mine who they know from the program for instance, I tell them "you remember the Puerto Rican guy?" People relate to one another in ways that they will understand, this is simply part of human communication.

What I am getting at, Mr. Sanchez, is that there are a lot of white people in this community. I highly doubt that people "in a place of higher learning" are going to look at the Frito bandito of Quixote's and think that this is what they can expect when they see a Mexican American. To us white people; a Frito Bandito is simply a Speedy Gonzalez-looking guy which, as sad as it might be, means "tacos." The point that the food is really not reminiscent of the TexMex food to which you refer is a stronger one. Although once again, I am sure that people in an educational community would be aware that the food they are consuming is really not what it is meant to be at all.

Feminism: A continuing fight



BY DAN WARD
VOICE COLUMNIST

Webster's defines feminism as "the movement to win political, economic, and social equality for women." Feminism is not, as has been indicated, a belief that men and women are equal. The truth is that women and men are equal but our society does not treat and has not treated women as equals. The idea that feminism is a negative is, in my opinion, very dangerous nut only for feminists and women but also for equality.

Maybe the greatest achievement of feminism has been women's suffrage. In 1848 women like Susan B. Antbony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton began a movement to get women the right to vote. Their fight lasted over half a century and was finally won in 1920. Feminism today is essential because 80 years later we live in a country in which 22 million single women did not exercise their right to vote. This is why feminism lives on.

A full-time working woman today earns only 73 cents to every dollar earned by a man, African-American women make 65 cents and Hispanic women only 53 cents to every dollar earned by a white man. In 1963 women earned 59 cents on every dollar earned by a man, that's an increase of only 14 cents in 41 years. Yes, this is a feminist issue, but it is not one that affects only women. If women were paid equally to men, poverty rates would be cut in half.

Feminism is also the fight for reproductive rights. This means getting available contraception on college campuses and fighting for the availability of emergency contraceptives (morning-after pill), as well as the fight for abortion rights. Right now women in the military are banned from receiving abortions at overseas hospitals even in cases of rape. A study by the Iowa Veterans Affairs Medical Center showed that 30% of female veterans reported having been raped or the victim of an attempted rape while in military service. The fight for reproductive rights is not a fight only for abortion but a fight for the health and safety of all women.

Some people would argue that feminism is a segregation, part of the Liberal agenda, or simply bad and believe that Women's Studies should be balanced by "Men's Studies". Only when white men like myself face the discrimination and injustices that today's women and minorities face will there be a need for such a class. Feminism is a fight for equality, which can never be a bad fight, only an American fight. It is a fight for women's health, reproductive rights, constitutional equality, and for an end to violence against women. And no matter how far we've come, feminism will and must remain until the day comes when every woman can walk out her door and feel fully appreciated, safe from violence and completely equal in our society.

Complaining about complaining about complaining!

"SO IT GOES"
BY EMILY ENGEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Before reading my column, please, take the thirty seconds to read the two stunning pieces of work on the previous page. Thank you.

All set? Okay. Here we go.

Gee, I'm glad at least some people are reading the paper. That brings some joy to this editor's heart.

However ...

It's safe to say that I've never started or ended one of my response columns in a professional manner, and this column is no different.

So without further adue ...

Ms. Wagner and Ms. McCornick ... Put a sock in it.

Every single letter I've recieved in the past three years I've been on staff have had their own flare, their own thoughts and have mostly been on target in one way or another. It is safe to say that these are the most irrelevant and unresearched letters I have ever gotten the chance to read. Congratulations! That's quite an accomplishment! Now, let's begin to dissect these letters bit by bit and see what we can all learn.

Let's start from the beginning. Spelling and grammar. A good friend of mine once said "Every time someone corrects someone else's grammar or spelling, a puppy dies." Way to go, druggy slayers. Both Ms. Wagner and Ms. McCornick made it a big, fat point to tell the world that I had spelling mistakes in my column, while making fun of Ms. Bentley's usage of the language. Let's address this. For starters, Ms. Bentley e-mailed her response to us. If she had time enough to write the letter, then she had time enough to do a bit of spellcheck. God knows we all "luv 2 uze" trendy internet lingo, but something that she should've assumed would be printed? Now ladies, let's make a deal, shall we? You two put in a full day of classes, four or five hours of homework, and then come up to the office and edit a twenty page newspaper until 1:30 in the morning and see how many mistakes YOU catch. Aw, too hard for you? I'd bet. Not that I'm complaining about my job, I love it up here. Also, keep in mind that those who live in glass grammar houses shouldn't throw stones. Ms. Wagner, you have enough run-on sentances and incomplete thoughts in your letter to kill a small horse. And Ms. McCornick? You mispelled "mispelled." And tell me ... What's a "lefter" and how did i misplace it? Now even I couldn't pull that off. Kudos.

Ms. Wagner, you openly admitted to not knowing or reading about the horoscope. So, in turn, what entitles you to have an opinion about any girl complaining about it, or me writing a column? I'd say diddly-squat. You really should've read it, then maybe you'd have a clue as to what occured, instead of just assuming things. At least Ms. McCormick read it and understood what was happening. She gets a gold star for effort.

Also, writing a letter to the editors and getting your opinion out there is one thing, and definitely important. That IS getting involved, and myself and Mr. Bernat are all about getting people to speak their minds. However, sending us nasty letters insulting our editing skills and the physical attributes of the girl who published the horoscopes is just plain *bitching*. I wrote my column because I wanted those two to know that satirical horoscopes were not going to be the worst thing printed, and it's naive to think that we're not going to delve into real issues. I'm sorry if you didn't catch on to that, Ms. Wagner. While you're going back and reading the horoscopes, why don't you take a gander at my column while you're at it.

And this also ... don't ever tell me that I've succeeded in ruining the reputation of a newcomer. That just boosts my ego far too much. The fact that you think I have the power to ruin the next four years of some girl's life is astounding. I didn't think I had that much control over the lives of freshmen.

Oh! Oh! The best part of Ms. Wagner's letter ... Where she stated that I'd never print such a horrible letter about myself because I don't want to look "bad." Jeez, you're just wrong all over the place, huh? Where have you been the last three years? We have printed every single letter to the editor we have ever recieved. And the majority have been ten times worse than your feeble attempts at knocking me off my high horse. And I love it! Again, go back and check.

Ms. McCornick, in response to us "throwing away" the letter, it actually did happen. The custodians make their way into the office and throw away useless items all the time. Don't think I wouldn't print such a masterpiece for all to see. It would've been amazing, and I'm upset you all didn't witness it.

Ha ha! I love this ... "Well Emily, it's not just your voice anymore." Doesn't that sound like the beginning to a really bad action movie? Like some-sort of threat? I'm sorry, did I ever say it was all about me? I love how so many assumptions were made over one measley column.

I guess that about wraps it up. Again, in case people missed the point of my last column ... We're all gonna get controversial this year, to the extreme. Be prepared for other articles that'll get your blood boiling.

I love my letters. I keep them in a shoebox in my closet. I hope to get tons more this year. But I thank Ms. Wagner and Ms. McCornick for taking the time out to write to me. I encourage everyone to do so when they get uppity over any subject.

'Til next time ...

WSC Campus Blood Drive!

Wednesday, Oct. 6th
1 PM -7 PM
Campus Center Third World Room

All donors will be entered in a drawing for a pair of Patriots tickets!

I'll have a burrito, extra political correctness

"The Left-handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Columnist

A lot of people take themselves far too seriously. Even worse, some people take issues that no one particularly cares about even more seriously. While flipping through last weeks edition of *The Voice*, I came across a letter sent to the editors from Aurelio H. Sanchez Jr. who is the Assistant Director of the Office of Minority Affairs/Urban Education. This letter was the absolute epitome of pointless, oversensitive, politically correct, bleeding heart whining I have ever read in my entire life. This letter struck a chord in me so hard that just for you, Mr. Sanchez, I will dedicate my column to a rebuttal to your letter. In lieu of whining, please make donations to the Bush/Cheney 2004 Campaign.

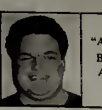
On to business. For those of you who may not have read Mr. Sanchez's letter, I will summarize. As everyone knows, Taco Bell is out and Quixote's is in. I know it's a bummer, but if I want some late night gut rot I can take a ride to Taco Bell in West Springfield (I hope I am getting paid for this plug). Even though the student morale is a bit lower because of the change, it seems that campus staff such as Mr. Sanchez are just fuming. But this anger has nothing to do with the fact that the food at 'Quixotes' sucks and more to do with the way they are advertising to students by using a stereotype of a "Latino male" to coerce you into enjoying some late night diarrhea and some Pepto Bismol to wash it down with. That's right, folks! That isn't just cold cheese sauce in your quesadilla, that's a little bit of racism you're taking a bite out of. And gosh darn it, we have to take a stand against Sodexho and the "negative impact" their "Frito Bandito" type of marketing has upon the malleable minds of the Westfield State College campus! Please…

First of all, and I know I am going to get flak for this, but I didn't have to look twice when I saw that you were the assistant director of minority affairs and urban education, Mr. Sanchez. My point being that you yourself are a minority and you work with many minority students and most likely minority faculty members, so it is your job to take racial issues seriously. For that, I applaud you with all sincerity, you obviously do your job quite well. However, I think that you may take life a bit too seriously when Sodexho advertising gets you into such a huff that you write about it to the campus newspaper.

Sniveling and complaining won't get you too far Mr. Sanchez, so I will ask you the same question I would ask John F. Kerry: What would you do to change things? Wait… I have an idea you might agree with, Mr. Sanchez. Let's take out all stereotypes from all forms of advertising in the entire country and have one authority on what is permissible to be broadcast to the masses. We can be like Russia, but with hurricanes and reality television shows! That's it! Let's start right here in New England. If we did that, then we would have to rename the Boston Celtics, right? Because not all Irish people are tiny, green leprechauns with canes wearing goofy hats. Then we would have to rename the Patriots because not everyone is a patriot in Massachusetts, nor do they believe in the ideals of this country. I find that very insensitive to them. Okay, I think you might get my drift…

In conclusion, I personally did not see any resemblance between the "Quixotes guy" and "Frito Bandito". I think that, contrary to the accusations made, advertisers have smartened up a bit in relation to blatant negative media stereotypes. The little Quixotes guy looks a bit more like a cheap piece of Mexican artwork rather then the cartoon-like Mexican stereotype of the Frito thief of days yore. So Mr. Sanchez, I challenge you to possibly let your guard down just a bit and entertain the thought that maybe Sodexho isn't trying to insult your Mexican-American (or maybe it is American-Mexican…) heritage as much as they are trying to embrace it in their cold hearted, super-conglomerate, business-like way. They do what they can…

Florida in Westfield



"A Nickel's Worth"
By Bob McDonald
Associate Editor

The hall council elections of 2004 may go down in history as the "Florida, 2000" of Westfield student elections. As a resident of campus living, and thus a voter in said elections, I am a bit upset at the somewhat ambivalent attitude that surrounded them, even from the very beginning.

It is a sad state of campus affairs when some residents do not even realize that an election has taken place. While this may seem unreasonable, I ask this: why was no major advertising held regarding elections held? And yes, before I get letter, I saw the posters. However, anyone who has ever put a poster anywhere on campus understands how futile such an act can sometimes seem.

The halls did hold interest meetings, however many of them had to be rescheduled when the Resident Directors failed to show up for said meeting. Publicity for the election dates was similar to that of the interesting meetings and the release of signature papers, which was not too grand in the first place.

While I may be able to write off the problems in advertising and publicity as common problems that plague any campus group, I cannot ignore the sweeping technical problems that occurred within said elections. There were problems with accessibility (ballot boxes were locked up at times when they should have been open as well as inconsistent advertising of voting times and days) and there were inconsistent methods of preventing voter fraud. Checking IDs, a standard voting practice, was appearantly optional. To my knowledge one hall did not even check names off of the list. As a result the Student Government Association required two halls and the Apartment Complex to hold new elections.

Hall Councils are of perhaps the most direct benefit to resident students. They are responsible for essential programming and hall improvements that supplement the learning process and help make students more comfortable living away from home. With the notable exceptions of actually assigning housing and preventing disaster, these councils should be the primary concern of the Residential Life department.

Unfortunately, holding an election that is so full of errors does not indicate such an attitude. Holding elections to anything less than perfect standards is an insult to the system itself. It sends a distinct message to voters: if we don't care enough about elections to do them correctly, how will we manage the work that follows?

By this I do not mean to imply that the Residential Life department is in any way crooked or that they have some hidden agenda to remove hall councils. This is a foolish assertion. Some of my readers will no doubt remember when one my of predecessors on the Editorial staff took it upon himself to childishly refer to the department as an "evil cult," a statement that resulting in a great deal of justified animosity.

I do not think that Residential Life is evil. I think that there are many things that the department does wrong, but of one thing I am certain: most of its employees signed on because they wanted to make our campus a better place. However, this election process has sent out a very negative message to the student body about how serious hall councils are taken. I would hope that the leaders of that department do everything in their power to correct this problem in the future.

*Columnist Note: The opinions expressed in "A Nickel's Worth" reflect those of Bob McDonald, Voice Columnist and Associate Editor, and do not reflect the sentiments of the Student Government Association or any other organization of which I am a part or hold office.

'Once a marine always a marine?'

"Marty knows… Maybe"
By Kristina Martinelli
Voice Columnist

On Sunday, September 26, I attended the Returning Home from Iraq seminar that was supposed to be on dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. My intention, really, was to see how much of a political based spin could be put on a topic so simple and concise. I was correct in assuming that there would be political views expressed. I don't know why, but I was suprised when I heard appalling things coming out of one of the panelists' mouths. I wasn't the only one.

The panelist was SSG Jim Massey. He was a Marine Reservist when he was deployed, but he was no longer in the service (if I heard that correctly). He was also, at some point in his past, a Marine recruiter. The SSG that was on stage didn't seem to care about what the director had previously mentioned about sticking to the topic and keeping politics out of tonight's discussion. He believed that this was his forum and that he could say whatever he wanted. Only a ignoble, uncouragesous person would do the same.

Some of you may agree with what Mr. Massey had to say. There were, however, soldiers and other military members in the audience who were outraged. With a sarcastic tone in his voice, Massey said that he had gotten exactly what he had expected when he was deployed. He continued to say that there was over-inflated intelligence reports given to him by his Commander-and-Chief that said to look for people in civilian clothes. He said that now the reports are saying that the enemies are recruiting Caucasians to fight with them. "I see a lot of Caucasians in this room, and with blue eyes." His following comment was along the lines of… Well, why don't we just all wear yellow stars? That was the fist of slanderous comments to come from his mouth. Did he just compare the U.S. to Nazi Germany?

He also made a comment that went something like this, "if you want to continue 'raping and pillaging' people, you will continue to send people overseas." Note the parts in quotes…he said that. He mentioned that there were numerous war crimes going on and that people need to be held responsible. I'm positive he's not talking about the scandalous pictures that came out about six months ago either. He said he was trained by a radical government.

According to Mr. Massey, all soldiers are fed anti-depressants so they could continue on their mission in a state-of-mind that wouldn't allow them to feel bad for the things they had done. Some people are given anti-depressants, but I doubt it's for the reason that Mr. Massey stated. I certainly wasn't and I can verify the same for an entire companies worth of people, and more so.

One of the last things that Mr. Massey commented on was depleted Uranium. Now, all soldiers must go through this briefing before they are deployed, I was. He made a comment that said he wasn't properly trained about depleted Uranium, and now his fellow soldiers need to be tested. He said that they had found a round overseas that everyone thought was neat and they were wearing around their necks. I think I can be 99% positive when I say that you are trained not to touch any unidentified objects you may find, even if you think you know what they are. Maybe Mr. Massey and his troops aren't as "brainwashed" as he wants everyone to believe. I was relieved when a Marine stood up towards the end of this guy's personal forum and commented on what had been going on all night. He was 22 and said that he was going to be deployed in January. He also mentioned that he had gone to the seminar to be informed, and that was all. He finished by saying that he didn't think he should have come, because these are not the types of things you want to hear before being deployed to a foreign land. As he sat, the out-spoken Mr. Massey asked him if the mission came first. The Marine replied yes, as is true in the Army. "That's what I'm talking about", replied Mr. Massey. The Marine's final comment, to the relief of other members in the crowd, was "Yeah, but people have the freedoms they have today for a reason." I'd like to say thank you to that Marine now.

Some soldiers with integrity and honor don't give it a second thought whether they are doing the right thing. they know they are. They also don't slam their Commander-and-Chief or country, especially when they are in a public forum. This guy had no class and I'm sorry to that Marine for that guys behavior. I thought the saying went, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." Some people just aren't good enough.

Lend a hand, be a star!

Need volunteer experience?

The Discover Children's Museum is in need of student volunteers for flexible hours at your convenience!

Projects include crofts, organizing octivities and foce pointing!

To join the student volunteer contoct list, call Diono Forrell ot 413-204-5567

Arts & Entertainment

Westwood Pub is a winner

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

The Westwood Restaurant and Pub is unlike many other Westfield restaurants.

"Don't judge a book by its cover" and do not judge Westwood by the outside. This building first constructed in 1894 was home to the Independent Whip Company, then the Old Colony Envelope Company, and to the current restaurant.

The inside uses original wood and beams with a reconstructed, sophisticated and tasteful dining room. The lighting was classy with beautiful stained glass windows. Tables were separate enough to retain separate conversations in a dining room that filled quickly even early.

Westwood prides itself in preparing each order individually, without batches. They recommend ordering an appetizer or beverage.

The appetizers were priced more than usual appetizers. The breadsticks were excellent and the meals were worth waiting for. Appetizers were not as substantially sized portions. The chicken tenders and mozzarella sticks were sufficient for a group to share.

There were several salad options which would be meal sized. Fresh mixed greens toped with chicken or steak. Sandwiches made up a small section of the menu. Each came with very crisp steak fries.

Main courses ranged in price from $13.95 to $22.95 but all included a tossed salad and a several choices of side dishes. Most were generous portions. The shrimp scampi was a bed of pasta with large butterfly shrimp.

The Agli Olio was one of the few vegetarian options serving al dante pasta with roasted vegetables and feta cheese.

All who selected the Filet Mignon were very impressed with the tender steak served with vegetables and choice of potato.

Also the chicken Parmesan was impressive compared to many other restaurants who serve this commonly enjoyed meal. There was a large piece of chicken with a liberal amount of pasta. Most appetites would easily have two meals with this entrée.

The Westwood has several small options for a kid's menu. They also offer a full bar with numerous wine and beers.

The prices are reasonable considering the quality and the service. The Westwood makes for a quality choice for a delicious meal in a gorgeous setting.

This is definitely a restaurant to impress a date or to have your parents take you when they visit.

Dining without the Commons

Taste: ★ ★ ★ ½

Price: $13.95-$22.95

Location: Westfield

Service: ★ ★ ★

Specialties: pasta and steak entrees

Red Carpet Fashion Review

BY ELLE FASHIONISTA
VOICE REPORTER

Last weekend I went out for a little GNO (girls night out) and noticed some major fashion mistakes and felt a huge need to include an outfit appropriateness article to "The Red Carpet".

I know that getting ready to hit up the bar scene is to many of us, quite a production, however we need to decided what production we are trying to dress for..."High Society", "Old School" or "Debbie Does Dallas".

This week, let us start with the men. I don't know why this still happens, but I feel as though tight black t-shirts have been done and over with since most of us were freshman in high school. Time to break away from that boys, but let long sleeve fitted shirts come into play. Not your thing? I hate to say it, but Abercrombie makes some hot shirts that you can dress up, no to mention that collard shirt with the jeans idea in last weeks article. Quick note on sizing, a short sleeved shirt that is more fitted on sculpted arms is way sexier than a shirt that looks two sizes too small across your rippling pectorals...

Girls, girls, girls...I just need to get it out there that there is a FINE line between really, really hot and really, ummmm, revealing. Okay, I've been in Forever 21 as many times as you have and I know their stuff is cute, and very affordable not to mention the selection! With that in mind, it's up to you to decide what is appropriate for what setting.

Typical Bar : Start with jeans; low rise (depending on your body type) fitted, or denim skirt (your favorite length).

Tops: Fitted polo, tank that comes to your waist, paper t-shirt (the thinner t-shirt that you can pair with a cami) or a decorated boy tank.

Dance Club: IF you are going to the Hippodromc..., forget it, that place is a fashion disaster.

If your going to Rain, the scene is a little more mature so try to stay away from the beaded tieback tanks in Charlotte Ruse or Forever 21.

Find a sexy tank (that flatters you) and for safety's sake, wear pants and NEVER go to the ladies room alone.

On campus apartments: Jeans, khakis....whatever, just remember, you're still on campus and well save the crazy stuff for the city.

Off Campus Parties: Girls, these parties can be more dangerous than you really know. Remember that what you wear can really tell people things that you might not really mean. i suggest that a pair of hip-huggers can really do wonders and still leave much to the imagination. These parties tend to get crowded so try to wear something that you will stay cool in. I think a lower cut or off the shoulder shirt is much sexier and respectful to your body than a skirt that doesn't cover your bum!

See a HUGE fashion mistake in one of you classes?
Write to me about it:
ElleFashionista@yahoo.com

Ida Patterson brings back old Irish charm

BY MEGAN CARLOTTA
VOICE REPORTER

Last September Westfield State College student Ida Patterson studied abroad for a semester in Ireland.

A senior, Patterson initially heard about studying abroad through other students at WSC and other colleges.

Patterson had always enjoyed the idea of traveling and had passed the posters in Wilson and found them to be very encouraging. After doing her own research, she decided she wanted to go to Ireland but chose not to go through WSC's abroad program but through the American Institute of Foreign Study.

Patterson found AIFS had more to offer than the Westfield's program. She could go on weekend trips and was able to choose the school she was going to. Though the cost was higher, she said it was worth the expense as she saw so much more than the average student.

For Patterson, one of the most difficult parts of studying abroad was the application process.

"Westfield had me running around like a chicken with my head cut off" she said. However, she said that George Psychas who runs the exchange program was "extremely helpful."

All the preparation work was worth it. Through AIFS, Patterson was able to see England for three days on a layover before arriving in Ireland. This allowed the students in the program to get to know each other, which Patterson found to be beneficial. When Patterson arrived in Ireland she claimed it to be "the most beautiful place," which surprised her as she had vacationed in Australia the year earlier.

-File Photo

Ida Patterson pictured in Ireland last fall semester

The school experience itself was completely different. Patterson described it as, "Very strict."

For each class there were two lectures and one tutorial a week. In the lectures students were not allowed to talk at all, and all the questions were to be asked during the tutorials.

Patterson said that although there was no graded work during the semester and attendance did no count toward your grade, the final test counted as 100% of your grade so it was important to attend those classes.

Patterson described the tests as "SAT style and completely nerve-wracking. Everyone before the test was talking and I was there freaking out."

Patterson said that her best experience was living with people from different countries. For the semester she lived with students from Ireland, Italy and Spain.

Patterson said that she would defiantly recommend studying abroad to other students.

"It was the best experience, being with people who don't think the same way as you is the best thing you can do for yourself. You become more accepting, more understanding and open-minded."

For further information on the American Institute of Foreign Study, check out http://www.AIFS.org

'Mr. 3000' gets three balls and two strikes

By Jill Monson
Voice Reporter

Let's begin by saying if you enjoy watching a movie with a tad bit of peace and quiet – the time NOT to go is to a 7:30 p.m. showing on a Friday night. This, in case it has been forgotten, is "teen time".

With that said, I ventured off to check out Mr. 3000 starring Bernie Mac. The movie, directed by Charles Stone and written by Eric Champnella and Keith Mitchell, is the tale of a legendary ball player who had 3,000 hits in his career. He uses that fame to become a retail giant with a Mr. 3000 sports bar, Chinese buffet, beeper store and more.

The movie starts off with a nod to Boston as the Red Sox take on the Brewers (the Red Sox lost which didn't thrill me, but since the movie costs $9.75 I wasn't leaving). The opening few minutes are from the days when he was playing ball. They show us his victories and how much of a creep he was to the fans, his teammates, and the media. Then there's a fast forwarded nine years.

This is when you see Stan Ross living large on his Mr. 3000 rep, but still not inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The committee is finally considering him when a clerical error arises; he is three hits short of 3,000! Well he decides he can't let his legacy go and rejoins the team – except now he's 47.

If you're going to this movie expecting to laugh out loud through the entire duration you might be disappointed. There were funny scenes like when he enters the locker room for the first time and his teammates place a walker at his locker or when he gets a spokesman opportunity… for Viagra. But overall there was not the doubled-over, got to hit the ladies room humor that audiences might have hoped for.

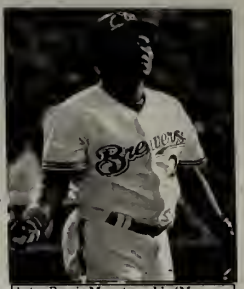
One thing about the movie that I really enjoyed was the music chosen for various scenes, although I fear the songs might be lost on the younger folks. Us older folks (I'm rounding out the end of my second decade) will be humming along to "Let's Get It On", "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" and "Shining Star".

Along with Bernie Mac there are other faces you'll recognize in this flick. Angela Bassett plays an ESPN reporter and flame, Paul Sorvino (from "Goodfellas" and Mira Sorvino's dad) plays the team coach, and Chris Noth ("Mr. Big" from Sex and the City) is the team owner.

In addition to those major roles this movie does an outstanding job with celebrity cameos. You'll see very funny scenes with Tom Arnold playing himself from "The Best Damn Sports Show Period", Jay Leno interviewing Stan Ross (who's on the couch with Carmen Electra), Stuart Scott from ESPN, Larry King, and more.

Mr. 3000's runtime is 104 minutes and although one hundred of those are relatively predictable the last four may surprise audiences.

I wouldn't say this movie was terrible, but I didn't leave feeling the cramp in my side from laughing that I had hoped for. Forget the star rating system, this movie is a full count (two strikes for not making me laugh enough, three balls for music, cameos, and a couple of one-liners).



Actor Bernie Mac starred in 'Mr. 3000,' a film about a retired baseball player struggling to get three more hits to be considered the real 'Mr 3000.'

Libbie Schrader compares to other female artists

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

Although her influences are never listed in her liner notes, new female artist Libbie Schrader begs several comparisons to current female artists, most notably Fiona Apple.

At first listen, Schrader, who hails from Los Angeles, sounds like a protégée of Sarah Mclachlan. Her vocal style at the onset of her opening track, "War on Science" is clearly reminiscent of McLachlan's album Fumbling Towards Ecstasy. And yet, in the same song, her sound becomes a softer version of Fiona Apple's. On "It Breaks Today", one could swear that it is in fact Apple's work. Schrader's style lacks Fiona's signature anger, but retains all the haunting flavor of her predecessor. It is this similarity to Apple that continues most promi-
nently through-
out the album.

O n
"Everything
I'm Not" her
softer style
could easily be
compared to
Vanessa
Carlton. But
even at her
most girlish,
Schrader's
reflections still
carry the
weight of a
young woman
reflecting on
relationships as
an adult. She
sweetly begins
asking, "Why

File Photo

New up and coming musician Libbie Schrader has been compared to Fiona Apple, Sarah Melachlan and Vanessa Carlton but has her own developing style. For more about Schrader, visit her website at www.libbieschrader.com.

does the moon seem
to say/ I should stay
alone? /I drop by
just to find nobody
home." Schrader's
piano rhythms and
vocals explode
when contemplates
the disadvantages of
not being the sort of
girl who plays
games with men.
In sharp contrast,
there is no mistak-
ing the maturity of
Schrader's reflec-
tions on "Leave me
Now," as she says,
"you know you
wanna leave/ but
you stay instead/
you stick around/ to
stay here in my
bed."

Despite similarities to other artists, Libbie Schrader is a clear talent with an emerging style of her own. What she lacks currently in definitive style she makes up for in craftsmanship. It will be interesting to see how she develops as an artist in the future.

According to her website, Libbie Schrader, "first made headlines when she and her band Think of England won the Pantine Pro-Voice 'New Voice of 2001' competition in New York's Central Park." The competition included "over 1,200 other female-fronted acts" as well as a chance to record a demo with Atlantic Records and to tour nationwide with Poe. Schrader and her band have also opened for Jewel and Rusted Root.

Health Capsule

Note to students subscribing to the Westfield State College Health Insurance: This year's insurance brochure can be obtained in the Department of Health Services or printed from the Department's website at www.wsc.ma.edu/healthservices or www.universityhealthplans.com (Click on Westfield State College at this website). Identification and prescription cards are not distributed until the middle of the semester since enrollment is extended until October 14th. Reimbursement claim forms can be printed from the University Health Plans website. Please contact the Department at X5415 if you have any questions or problems.

Mark your calendars: Influenza and Menomune Maxim Health Vaccine Clinic on October 28th from 1P.M. to 7 p.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. The cost for Influenza Vaccine to prevent the flu will be $20 and the cost for Menomune Vaccine to prevent certain bacterial types of meningitis will be $90. People allergic to eggs should not get Influenza Vaccine. If you've received Menomune, protection from this vaccine should last three to five years.

November 9th, come and listen to Mike Domitrz' presentation "Can I Kiss You?" in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 8 p.m. Mike is a well known speaker on college campuses. His program is dynamic, interactive and humorous while it addresses serious issues of dating communication, respect and sexual assault awareness. See his website at www.canikissyou.com The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has also sponsored grant money toward this event.

Seen On The Green

Cassie, the general manager of WSKB and Brian Aldred light up to Bill George's column, Got A Light, found in last week's issue of The Voice. Aldred and Cassie are proud smokers of Marlboro brand cigarettes. A tap of the pack to Aldred and Cassie from 'The Voice'.

Fall Classic is just around the corner

"THIS OWL'S HOWL"
BY JOHN DESCHENES
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox recently concluded their final game of the regular season. The Red Sox bounced back from a tough weekend in the Bronx a couple weeks ago with two wins at Fenway against New York. The one game they lost? That came with Pedro Martinez on the mound. That game was very similar to last year's game 7 of the ALCS. Pedro had the lead after 7 innings, yet he was back on the mound in the 8th. His pitch count was well over 100 and he ultimately gave up the lead. Behind Mariano Rivera, the Yankees held on to win the game. The loss dropped the Sox to 5.5 games behind the Yankees.

All of this seems trivial to me. I do, however, I have a problem with Mr. Martinez' post game comments. Pedro was quoted as saying, "I wish they would disappear and never come back. I'd like to face any other team right now. To pitch a good game, make good pitches and still can't beat them, it's frustrating." This isn't exactly what I want to hear from a guy who is supposed to lead the Red Sox past the Yankees and into the World Series. He went on to add this gem, "What can I say? I just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy." Maybe Pedro is playing a game, you know, trying to convince the Yankees they really are getting to him. I don't know, it better be. Maybe I am living in the past. I still view this guy as one of the best 5 pitchers in baseball, but is he? If you asked me who I wanted to start one crucial game for my team I still might tell you Pedro Martinez is my guy. Am I being foolish? I know Pedro had the Red Sox in position to go to the World Series last year, but has that much changed in one year? Can he still get it done in the postseason? We will find out. Pedro now has his doubters, and with this being his contract year I think it is fair to say that this upcoming postseason will be his biggest of his career here in Boston. He is no-longer "the guy". Why? Because Curt Schilling is pitching better than him and he has what Pedro doesn't, a World Series ring. Hopefully Pedro will feed off of Schilling and this duo can finally propel the Red Sox past New York. Time will tell.

I know it isn't set in stone that the Red Sox and Yankees will meet in the ALCS, but I would be shocked if these two teams didn't meet. As of September 27, it looks like the Red Sox will be taking on the Minnesota Twins in the Division Series. The Twins are led by pitcher Johan Santana. This guy will most likely win the ALCy Young award, and for good reason. He is a strikeout machine, mostly because of his devastating change up. He has been outstanding since the All-Star break, and does have postseason experience. He went into Yankee Stadium last year in game 1 of the Division Series and shut down the Yankees. The Twins also feature an experienced, quality number two starter in Brad Radke. Schilling and Pedro vs. Santana and Radke would provide a classic AL Division Series, if you like pitching. The Red Sox would be opening this series in Minnesota, which isn't good news for Boston fans. The Red Sox do not play well in the Metrodome and haven't won a series there in a few years. I understand playoff baseball is different, but hopefully the Sox can wrap up the series at home.

Terry Francona will have to finalize his 25 man playoff roster in the near future. I will try to predict that team right now. I'll start with position players. The following players are locks: Jason Varitek, Doug Mirabelli, Kevin Millar, Mark Bellhorn, Orlando Cabrera, Bill Mueller, Manny Ramirez, Johnoy Damon and David Ortiz. I think you'll also see Doug r

Mientkiewicz, Pokey Reese, Dave Roberts, Trot Nixon and Gabe Kapler. That gives you 14 position players, and leaves room for 11 pitchers. I think you will see all five starting pitchers (Schilling, Martinez, Lowe, Arroyo, and Wakefield). i also expect to see Foulke, Timlin, Embree and Myers. That leaves two spots available for three pitchers. Those three are Ramiro Mendoza, Curtis Leskanic and Scott Williamson. I think "Tito" has to ask himself one huge question: Can Scott Williamson be the Scott Williamson we saw last October? Can his arm hold up? We shall see. It is that time of year again, and I love it.

Voice editor gets down with R.A.D.

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

After being approached by my RD Jes Rich, Officer Hastings, The Voice, SGA, and encouraged by friends and family I enrolled in the class with great apprehension. My fellow editors at "The Voice" thought a series of diary reflections on the course was a must. Thanks.

WSC began offering a self-defense course free to students after RD Jes Rich and Officer Hastings completed instructor training. The pilot course was in the winter of 2003. After a successful first course, another was offered to WSC's graduating senior women. Now for the third time, this course was offered to WSC female students.

The program is called R.A.D. or Rape Aggression Defense System. The intentions are for self-defense so a woman could defend herself against an attacker so that she might escape. There are four instructional classes and the fifth class is a simulation with different situations to put the learned

Before the first class I was apprehensive, nervous, and as much as I knew I needed to do something like this, I was unsure of my abilities. I consider myself as having common sense, but I was trying to be open-minded and think about whatever they told me.

We began by filling out medical forms and signing several wavers. This added to the fear some of the class had.

It made me wooder how likely it was that I might be injured. I am not a klutz but I am somewhat prone to accidents and since I was nervous anyway, this was not helping.

What did help my nerves was the authority and competence of our two instructors. They explained their background and why they wanted to offer RAD at Westfield. They also reinforced that the waivers were necessary for everyone's protection but it was the same risk as anything else. The first class was organized and professional so the structure made me somewhat more at ease.

Part ONE of a TWO Part Series

The program began September 23, 2004 with four sessions following. The class was limited to 16 women and filled before the first class. The students involved are requested to keep material private. The purpose is to teach different tactics and techniques and they are less likely to work the more potential attackers know about defense skills.

We began as a quiet group listening to the power-point presentation that focused on terms that would later be important. Objectives, definitions, and general procedures were explained.

I could see the trepidation and some nervousness on the faces of the other 15 women. Class years, majors, involvement, and athleticism all ranged amongst the group of females but we shared the same goal. We knew we wanted the same things out of the program but I sensed we might accomplish these goals in different ways.

While it seemed to me that nobody in the course had ever done anything like this, it also made me think that during the following four classes the group would learn more about one another than I do in most academic classes I have for the entire semester.

A few of the females in the class left the first class surprised about all the issues and situations that they did not really think about before, and RAD was forcing them to think about them now.

The mood of the first class was formal and instructional. This changed a lot at the second class.

The next class was Tuesday September 28 and proved to be quite different. The first class was strictly lecture and the second class was strictly physical. Getting our group of 16 to move and be vocal was not as challenging as I thought it would be. The group stretched then began.

The techniques were demonstrated and explained for the group while the majority of the class was practice. The group that once was quiet and reserved began showing their true colors. There were talkative water breaks, and high fives throughout the next few hours.

I left class feeling better about being involved in it than I had the first time. Now there was a definite sense of support and encouragement. This was probably there during the first class too, but I was too busy being nervous to notice.

The third class will probably be different from the previous two, but you'll just have to wait until next week to hear how it goes.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Davis Hall residents keep dry during the rainstorm and watch as fellow students perform Karaoke.

The Voice Is Hiring

We have positions open for a Business Manager, a Distributor and two other general openings. All positions are work study and pay for a 6 hour work week. Experience is not required. Business Manager duties include; dealing with local and national businesses for advertisement revenue, organize invoice slips and collecting checks. You must have your own transportation. Distributor Duties include; delivering the papers either Friday afternoon or Monday to all the Residence Halls the Dining Commons, the Academic Halls the Commuter Cafe and possibly the Woodward Center. Anyone interested may leave a message at "The Voice" office x5431 or stop by Ely C-243.

Owls Fall To Fitchburg, 22-15

FITCHBURG – Senior Brian Milleisen (Miller Place, N.Y.) had career highs of 183 yards and 33 carries to lead Fitchburg State to a 22-15 New England Football Conference victory over Westfield State on Sept. 25.

Fitchburg evened its overall record to 2-2 in winning its opening game in the Bogan Division of the NEFC.

The loss snapped an impressive 18-game Bogan Division winning streak for Westfield State (1-2, 0-1). The Owls' last divisional loss was in November of 2000 as they captured the past three Bogan titles with perfect 6-0 records.

"Westfield State is a very good football team which hadn't lost a Bogan Division contest in 18 games," said an emotional Fitchburg State head coach Pat Haverty. "This is a very special win for us."

As anticipated, the game began as a defensive struggle with Westfield clinging to a 7-3 halftime lead. Fitchburg opened the scoring with a 22-yard first-quarter field goal by standout kicker Treavor Smith, who also punted six times for a 39.2 average.

Westfield struck quickly early in the second quarter on a 52-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Jon Meczywor (Lanesboro) to senior wide receiver David Trueira (Wilmington), who led all receivers with six catches for 90 yards. Meczywor, a University of Maine transfer, completed 16 of 30 passes for 223 yards but threw two interceptions.

Fitchburg regained the lead, 9-7, midway through the third quarter on a 31-yard touchdown run by sophomore Naftalie Pollard (Taunton). Smith's extra point hit the left upright and was no good. On the play prior to Pollard's TD jaunt, Milleisen – a transfer from Millersville, Pa., University - just made a first down as the upback on a fake punt attempt.

The Owls quickly regained the lead, 15-9, on a 10-play, 55-yard drive that was capped by junior fullback Mark Puchalski's (South Deerfield) 15-yard touchdown run around left end on fourth and inches. Meczywor ran for the two-point conversion.

Fitchburg took the lead for good, 16-15, with an 11-play, 87-yard drive capped by Pollard's one-yard touchdown run with 11:06 remaining in the game.

Pollard finished with 62 yards on eight carries as the Falcons controlled the ground game with 238 rushing yards on 46 carries. Westfield, meanwhile, was held to 69 net yards on 32 rushes.

Two fourth-quarter turnovers foiled the Owls. With 9:31 remaining, Meczywor's tipped pass was intercepted by Fitchburg senior defensive back Tommy Betsch (Rye, N.Y.), who raced 38 yards for a touchdown. Smith's PAT was blocked to make the score 22-15.

Westfield was driving for a potential game-tying touchdown, but reserve receiver Mike Lorenzano (Quincy) lost a fumble at Fitchburg 26 following a 23-yard reception with seven minutes remaining.

The Falcons made one more defensive stop and kept giving the ball to Milleisen to run out the clock.

Linebacker Jim Fennelly led Westfield with 10 tackles, including a sack. Defensive back Ryan Riley posted nine tackles and linebacker Matt Wooliver recorded six tackles, including three for losses and a sack.

Westfield State goalie Matt Costa goes high between a host of players to deflect a shot attempt during a game at Trinity. *Photo by Mickey Curtis*

Costa Named Player of Week

Westfield State College goalie Matt Costa of Chicopee was named the Mass. State Conference men's soccer player of the week on Sept. 27, 2004.

The Chicopee High graduate and Holyoke Community College transfer anchored an Owl defense that did not allow a goal in two games last week.

He recorded six saves, including two spectacular stops in the first overtime of a 0-0 tie with nationally ranked Keene State. Costa also played the first 46 minutes with two saves in a 4-0 shutout of Newbury.

The Westfield men's soccer team owned a 3-2-1 record with four straight shutouts, heading into Wednesday's game at Albertus Magnus. The Owls opened conference play Saturday, Oct. 2, when they hosted Salem State at 6:00 p.m.

Four other Westfield State athletes were named to weekly honor rolls. Senior **David Trueira** (Wilmington) caught six passes for 90 yards, including a 52-yard touchdown, in a 22-15 loss at Fitchburg State.

Senior **Tara McDonough** (Palmer) registered a goal in the women's soccer team's 2-1 loss at Rhode Island College. Sophomore **Kate Anderson** (Georgetown) continued her fine early-season play for the field hockey team with a goal and an assist in a 6-3 loss at Trinity. Anderson now has seven assists in five games, four shy of the school single-season record.

In volleyball, freshman **Krista Grifoni** (Peabody) recorded 20 assists and three digs in a 3-0 victory at Anna Maria College.

Athletics Department Awarded Two Grants In Area Of Diversity

The Westfield State College athletics department is the recipient of two NCAA Division 3 Initiative Grants totaling $13,350 in the area of diversity.

A proposal submitted by Nancy Bals, assistant athletics director/senior women's administrator, was approved to hold a community-building event and conduct leadership and diversity training for student-athlete leaders.

"We are striving to build a sense of community and tolerance in the department of athletics," said Bals.

"We recently held a cook-out at Stanley Park for student-athletes and coaches that featured speakers from our department and the campus, including President (Vicky) Carwein.

"We want to enhance communication, share our vision and goals and expectations for student-athletes, and build a sense of pride here on our campus."

In addition to the cookout, a workshop is scheduled Oct. 18 for members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) and captains of all varsity teams. The workshop - conducted by Elaine Penn of CAMPUSPEAK - will focus on becoming aware of intolerance, understanding and appreciating differences, developing leadership skills, and inspiring and empowering student-athlete leaders.

Following the workshop, Penn will present a keynote address to all Westfield State student-athletes. The presentation will focus on finding common ground and embracing differences.

"With the opening of the Woodward Center, having a new president at Westfield State, and hosting the NCAA Division III field hockey championships in November, this is a very big year for us and we want to bring everyone on board and enjoy our accomplishments," said Bals.

In the area of professional development, a proposal submitted by Westfield State athletics director Ken Magarian was granted for the educational training of staff and coaches to recruit minority student-athletes. Staff members will attend a national symposium on the recruitment and retention of students of color.

The department of athletics also will join with Dr. Kamal Ali, assistant dean of the multicultural development department at Westfield State, to seek ideas of how to train staff in this area. Attracting a more diverse student population to Westfield State is a crucial part of the college's mission.

Westfield State College has received five NCAA Division 3 Initiative Grants over the past five years.

An additional NCAA Initiative Grant, submitted by Bals, was received for the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) for leadership training. She has coordinated the conference SAAC since its inception in 2001.

Sophomore Dave Nalewanski, Westfield's leading scorer, registered two assists in Owls' 4-0 victory over Newbury. *Photo by David Harris-Fried*

Cross Country Results

Gordon Invitational at Wenham, Mass.

Men's Cross Country
Third Place (16 teams)
7. Geoff Churchill, 28:27
8. Nathan Cristofori, 28:28
15. John Messer, 29:15
24. Andy Messer, 29:51
30. David Estabrook, 30:12

Women's Cross Country
Third Place (16 teams)
3. Heather Wenninger, 20:12
15. Alison Wesolowski, 21:12
17. Kim Granl, 21:17
20. Aimee Worcester, 21:26
29. Marissa Blume, 21:48

Brandeis Edges Women's Soccer

WESTFIELD – Senior Lauren Gregor scored off a defensive misplay with 2:09 left in the second overtime to give Brandeis University a 1-0 victory over the Westfield State women's soccer team.

Brandeis, ranked fourth in New England and 24th nationally, remains unbeaten at 8-0, while Westfield drops to 2-4.

The game appeared headed for a scoreless tie when Jessica Druckman's shot attempt was mishandled by Westfield goalie Natalia Araszkiewicz on the slick artificial turf. Gregor gathered in the loose ball and easily stroked it into the goal.

Araskiewicz registered 10 saves for Westfield, while Brandeis junior goalie Natasha Pieciek of Three Rivers, Mass., (Palmer High School) recorded four saves.

Volleyball Wins Fifth Straight

NORTH ADAMS – The Westfield State women's volleyball team won its fifth straight game by defeating MCLA, 3-1, in a conference match Sept. 28.

The Owls improved to 5-4 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

Westfield lost the first game, 30-22, but came back to win three straight: 30-22, 30-25, 30-18.

Senior captain Amy Svatik had 20 digs, 1 kill and 2 aces. Junior outside hitter Lindsay Dalene recorded nine kills, 3 aces and four blocks, and Stefanie West finished with nine kills and nine digs. Rachel Sweeney contributed six kills, six assists, three digs and one block, and Kristen Gorski was credited with 24 assists.

Faculty pickets for fair pay

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Jess Castro a senior at WSC talks to News 22, the local NBC affliate, about the problems with faculty and staff contracts at the 'Day of outrage.'

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Ken Harr and Marsha Marotta are faculty members that support 'Fair Pay' and 'Fair

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Faculty members stand outside and protest on the steps of Parenzo Hall.

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Professor Tetrault and Barry Maloney

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Professor Gerald Tetrault marches with others towards 333.

Circle K

Ely
Third World Room
Wednesday nights at 7 p.m.

Come see what it's all about!
Get involved!
Make a difference!
Join Circle K!

Intramurals

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals
Have Fun - Meet New People

Any Women Interested in Playingh Ice Hockey
Please come to the IM Office in Parenzo 169
and sign up!!!

Work Study Positions are still available in Athletics.
Come to Parenzo 169 in Gym

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

Standings will be posted in next week's paper and on our website.

Workers Needed
Work Study Only

Good Pay - Great Fun
Great Environment to Work In

Upcoming IM Sports

Golf Tourney - Oct. 16
Punt-Pass-Kick Contest - TBA

Meeting Wednesday October 6:

M&W Soccer
M&W Billiards

Meeting Wednesday October 13

M&W 5-5 BBall
Coed Volleyball
Coed Water Polo

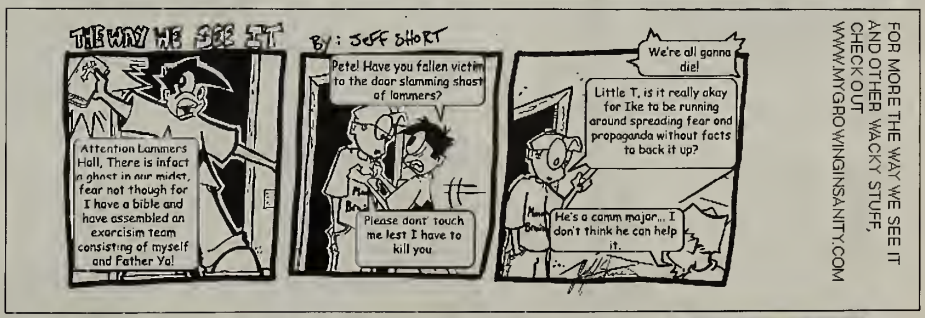
Time to Start Organizing Your Team!!!
Get Rosters at IM Office (Parenzo 169- Right under the BBall Hoop) or online at:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

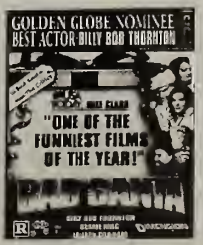
Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"People are hypocrites when it comes to laundry. One day, your friend will complain about the guy who left his laundry in the washer for 15 minutes, til your friend finally moved the clothes to a table and put his own wash in. Two weeks later, your same friend will complain about the gall someone had to move their stuff out of a washer when they were only 15 minutes late to retrieve it."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:
www.collegehumor.com
You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots.*
Check your local bookstore.



Check Out These Campus Flicks!



For complete listings, see the backpage.

The Back Page

Campus Flicks

10/4 - The Last Samurai & Mean Girls
10/5 - Kill Bill 2 & The Punisher
10/6 - Bad Santa & 50 First Dates
10/7 - Eurotrip & Monster
10/8-10/10 - Cold Mountain & Mystic River

Movies start at 8pm on Ch. 70 & 71

Campus Activities Board

presents

October CoffeeHouse

Oct 6 - 8pm-11pm

Ely Main Lounge

WSC Athletics This Week

Volleyball v. Mass Maritime - T - 6p
Field Hockey @ Worcester - T - 7p
W. Soccer v. Albertus Magnus - T-7
M. Soccer v. Elms - W - 7p
Volleyball v. Bay Path - R - 6p
Football v. Mass Maritime - Sat -1p
W. Soccer v. Framingham - Sat - 6p

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	**4** Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm - Ely Pool Monday Evning Jazz - EML - 7p	**5** Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool Criminal Justice Fair 2004 - SBH - 9am-6pm SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	**6** Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Blood Drive - 1p-7p - TWR C.A.B. - 5p - SGA Office CoffeeHouse - EML - 8-11pm	**7** Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30pm & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool WSC Volleyball v. Bay Path - WOOD - 6pm	**8** Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool New Voters DEBATE Watch - EML - 6:30-10pm	**9** WSC v. Mass Maritime - Alumni Field - 1pm WSC v. Framingham - Alumni Field - 6pm
10 Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - 4pm Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm	**11** **COLUMBUS DAY** **NO CLASSES** Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm	**12** Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool National Coming Out Day - SLR - 7-10pm	**13** **CLASSES FOLLOW MONDAY SCHEDULE** Commuter Student Pizza Lunch - EML - 12-2pm	**14** Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool WSC v. Elms - WOOD - 7pm	**15** Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool CAB's Casino Night - EML - 8-11pm & Brown Bag Bingo @ 11pm	**16** WSC vs. Salem State - Alumni Field - 1pm

Join the Voice Staff!

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248 or email us at:

thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X | October 4, 2004 | Issue V [illegible]

Sox, Yankees fall classic? read 'This Owl's Howl' *pg.12*

'Outrageous' behavior on campus, see what faculty have to say. *pg. 1*

Photo by: Cliff Ashbrook

Senior Convocation smashing success *pg. 1*

You write it, we print it, a whole page of letters to the editor *pg. 7*

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | October 18, 2004 | Issue VI

Nestor weathers beating by Worcester State football players

file photo

Nestor the Owl is back on it's feet and rooting for WSC sports teams after the incident that took place Saturday October 2 in the Woodward Center.

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Westfield State College's official mascot Nestor the Owl was allegedly assaulted by three Worcester State College football players in the Woodward Center during halftime of the Worcester State Westfield State football game on October 2.

The score was 14-3 at halftime with Westfield State in the lead when Nestor headed to the usual changing room in the Woodward Center said Ken Magarian Athletics Director at WSC.

"From what I understand one guy elbowed Nestor in the gut, one comes and punches her in the head, it wasn't a roundhouse but it hit right here in the forehead," said Magarian.

A female Westfield State College student wears the Nestor mascot outfit.

According to Magarian when Nestor first walked into the lobby the room was filled with Worcester State College football players. "Nestor goes out of the lobby and waits until they leave, she thought they had all left," said Magarian.

Witnesses said at this point some of the players were yelling obscenities at Nestor and told her to, "get the hell out of here."

Magarian said Nestor headed to her changing room after she thought all of the players had gone back to the field. It was at this time when the three players "narrowed the hallway"

"Little did they know we had a student security officer posted there," said Magarian Student security John Meincke reported the incident to Magarian after it happened.

"She wasn't going to say anything," said Magarian who caught up with Nestor as she was leaving with her parents after the game was over.

"I made her tell me what happened. I got the number of the kid who did it, the number of the kid who apologized," said Magarian.

Nestor-Page 2

Black bear sightings strike mild curiosity in the hearts of WSC students

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Sightings of a black bear by students and faculty near dumpsters on campus have prompted Westfield State College public safety to issue a warning to the campus community.

The bear has been sighted behind the dumpsters of Courtney Hall and poking around near the dumpsters that sit between Lammers and Ely. An e-mail advising faculty to avoid the bears was written and signs have been posted on campus to warn students of bear activity.

Bridget Gleason, 18, of Courtney Hall tried to take her garbage out behind Courtney on October 1, a Friday, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. when Institutional Security Officer (ISO) Victor Rufo stopped her before she could step outside.

"He said, 'Oh no, you can't take the trash out, there's a bear back there,'" said Gleason. A few minutes before Gleason said her roommate attempted to go outside but was also stopped by Rufo. Gleason said she headed down more out of curiosity and was not worried by the presence of the bear.

"This is not an all out war against the bears," said Chief of Public Safety Paul Scannell. Scannell said the bears are looking for an "easy meal" in the dumpsters and warned against feeding the bears. "I try to tell people to use some caution," said Scannell.

A family of black bears is supposedly living in the area said Scannell who noted the bears have been sighted in downtown Westfield.

"We live in the country, these are normal habitats for these animals," said Scannell. He said skunks; foxes and coyotes are also living in the area. "They're all natural to this environment, we have to co-exist with these animals," said Scannell.

Gleason wasn't the only one who had a run in with the bear, Professor Madeline Cahill and Professor Susan Leggett of the Communication department saw the black bear

Bear-Page 2

333 gets a $200,000 boardroom

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

President Vicky Carwein is shuffling offices in 333 in order to make way for a new boardroom.

The boardroom is being placed alongside Curt Gunther's office in the corner of 333 that faces Stanley Park. This move will displace at least two offices.

"Even a year ago, I thought, if I get this job, something has to be done with that board room," said Carwein.

The current boardroom is in the middle of the administration offices and has no windows. The area for the new boardroom will have two walls of windows.

Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations believes the cost of the new room should be about $200,000.

President Carwein said, "We are able to use funds from our food source. We will be doing meals and having things catered and what not in there so they are willing to let us take some money."

The President believes the current boardroom is dark, dingy and outdated. She said she wants a nicer place to introduce people to Westfield State College.

Curt Guenther, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations, agrees with the strategy behind the construction but still has reservations. "The old boardroom doesn't portray what we need as a presentation area. Whether or not we need a whole new area, I'm not sure about."

A meeting held on September 24, informed the staff that they were going to

Boardroom-Page 2

Rally got out the vote

By Robbie Crossman
Voice Reporter

On September 30, people gathered for a voter registration rally outside of the Ely building. The registration rally was put on by Jess Castro, a 21 year old Political Science major. S.G.A., The Political Science Club, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Mass Communications department sponsored the rally. Mix 93.1 was also there to help promote the rally.

After registering to vote, students were put into a raffle where they could win prizes and discounts from some of the surrounding restaurants. Students were also given free t-shirts, pins, and candy.

Castro said the reason they put on the registration rally was because people need to know they have a right and duty to vote. Castro said, "We need to make W.S.C. students know what's going on with the election. With this rally people can easily register and have their voices heard."

Antwain Hunter, a 22 year old Education and History major, said he was happy that Westfield State put on the rally. "It was a very good idea. Not enough young people are voting. People don't realize our votes matter and that they will

Rally-Page 3

'Shaun of the Dead' rises above the rest
Read the review

pg. 10

Pixel takes potshots at the Swiftboat Veterans for truth
pg. 15

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Nestor

One Worcester State player had come up to Nestor and apologized immediately following the alleged assault said Magarian.

Magarian said he spoke to the Worcester State head coach after the game. "He was just appalled," said Magarian who expects disciplinary action. "I'm going to call my counterpart at the Worcester State College Department of Athletics and send her a copy of the police report," said Magarian.

"From what I understand one guy elbowed Nestor in the gut."

Ken Magarian
Athletics Director

Lt. Foyle of the Westfield State police department was notified of the event. The assault and battery charges were recorded but Nestor is not pressing charges at this time.

When reached for comment a Worcester State college assistant football coach denied the incident had happened at all, "Get your story straight," the coach said.

Magarian said he heard rumors that one of the three who had assaulted Nestor was the starting quarterback and would be suspended for an unknown number of games.

Thumbs Up:

To Alex Napoleon for breathing much needed life into the coffehouse. Do we hear any votes for a Spring Weekend onening act?

Thumbs Down:

To the musically inclined Scanlon Hall student who decided it was a good idea to play "Theme from New York, New York" right after the Red Sox lost in game 1 of the ALS championships. Though we salute your taste in music, your timing might land you in the hospital someday.

Bear

Friday October 1 at around 5:45 p.m. They were pulling out of the parking lot and saw the bear rooting through a dumpster, "We said, 'are we really seeing this'," said Cahill.

"It was surreal," said Leggett. "Very weird stuff," said Cahill. Neither professor had a cell phone to call public safety. As they drove away from the bear they passed a campus police officer. "We rolled down the window and asked, 'Are you going to look at the bear'," said Legget. Cahill said he had driven by but backed up, rolled down his window and asked, "What bear?"

"This is not an all out war against the bears."

Paul Scannell
Chief of Public Safety

They explained what they had seen to the officer. "On his way down I shouted 'It was really cute'!" said Leggett.

Cahill said the bear appeared to be a cub and was looking in the dumpster used for cardboard.

The Musical Theatre Guild presents:
Guys N' Dolls

November 4 and 5 at 7:30pm
November 6 at 1:30pm and 7:30pm

Dever Auditorium, Parenzo Hall
For ticket information please go to the Ely service window.

From the Editors Desk

Bad news for puppy slayers

Puppy killers beware! You thought my nit-picking about grammar and punctuation were bad? Little do all of you know that those skills could be the life or death of your career.

Upon entering the office on Tuesday evening, I found an MSNBC press release in the mail-box. Professor Jim Raschilla of the English department, and also a former professor of mine, took the time to send me a copy of this September 14th release entitled "Survey shows workers shud write better" along with a note that said "Emily: Apparently there are many who want to see far more puppies die!"

The article is centered around the fact that according to a survey done by the College Board's National Commission on Writing in New York, "one-third of workers do not meet the writing requirements of their positions." Businesses are clearly desperate for better writers.

I'm sure that everyone who has ever taken an English class at this fine institution has had at least one experience peer editing a fellow classmates paper. Being an English major, it seems as though I have edited dozens of essays, and not to mention all the columns that have been printed in the Voice since January of 2004. I wonder if anyone else has come to terms with that fact that very few people on this campus can't write coherently. I have read several wonderfully written papers; but unfortunately, I have read far more atrocities.

"In a fast paced work place, precision and brevity are essential. For e-mails, reports, and presentations; the commission found that accuracy, clarity, spelling, punctuation, grammar and conciseness ranked among the most sought-after skills" stated the article. Keeping these facts in mind ought to be something everyone on campus does while doing something as menial as writing a scathing letter to the editors or something important, like a mid-term essay.

And what seems to be the solution for this catastrophe? "You're never too old to learn," said Bob Kerrey, co-chair of the writing commission and president of the New School University of New York City. "It's a skill that is acquirable." See, even the worst of you have hope!

Writing for a newspaper will hopefully someday be what brings home the bacon for me. But what about the rest of you? Two-thirds of salaried workers in the large U.S. companies have jobs that require some writing - and this includes some of the most technical occupations. On top of this, more than half of the companies surveyed reported that they assess writing in hiring and promoting salaried employees. Your job will most likely require you to have some sort of grip on this wonderful language you've been learning.

Who's to blame? Faulty teachers and school systems? Parents? Sesame Street? I'd say it's up to the student to decide to become a better writer. It's nice to be able to send us a letter knowing that it is spotless of all mistakes and will most likely not be torn apart by myself, but think of the bigger picture. What's your boss going to think of the letter or e-mail you wrote to him or her?

Again, thank you to Professor Raschilla for offering this information to The Voice.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Boardroom

be displaced and have to, in some cases, share offices until the construction has finished.

The staff had to move from their offices the following week.

"As far as I know the boardroom is going to be cut into four pieces," said News Coordinator Craig Phelon. Phelon has been moved from his office to Jeanne Julian's, Director of Marketing and Media.

Ana Maria Ronca, Manager of Development Systems and Special Projects, whose office had a window view is now slated to have one of the rooms in the old boardroom. "I've never been in this position before so I'm just going along with it.

"I'm losing a view but I have no resentment," said Ronca.

Guenther said, "Being frank, it's not a fun situation to be in, the start of the school year and everything."

Guenther said he is concerned about where the money is coming from. "My biggest concern is that none of this project will affect students on campus."

The tentative date for completion of the project is December 15.

Rally

affect our futures," said Hunter. Hunter also said, "It was definitely more convenient being able to get my absentee ballot here on campus instead of trying to find a place in Westfield."

Andrew Roberts, a 20-year-old Criminal Justice major, said, "The rally was a great idea because it's important to get kids to vote. The younger kids just don't seem to care these days." Roberts also said he was happy with the rally because instead of having to go downtown to register, you could literally walk out your front door and be able to.

Sue Hiersche, a representative of 93.1, said the reason they were there was because voting needs to be promoted and reinforced among the younger generations. Hiersche said, "It was definitely a great idea to have the rally here. It's just so much more convenient for people to come down and register here."

Katie Disantis, a 20-year-old Westfield State student, said, "It was a great rally. It's great seeing the message being put out to the students."

"It was defintely a great idea to have the rally here. It's just so much more convenient for people to come down and register here."

Sue Hiersche
Mix 93.1

President Carwein stresses importance of public relations to S.G.A.

By Meaghan Chevalier
Voice Reporter

On Thursday October 12, 2004 President Carwein spoke to the members of The Student Government about her intended goals and vision for Westfield State College. As of June 1, 2004 Vicki Carwein has been the new President here at Westfield State. Carwein said she looks forward to working with the school very much.

Carwein made one of her top priorities of discussion at the meeting a push for the school to become more involved with its alumni and fund raising for the college. The alumni association here at Westfield State College has not been very active one she said. Carwein said she wishes to develop a closer relationship between current Student Government and alumni and to try to get more funding for the college because it's in need of it.

Another issue raised was moving out and spreading the word about Westfield State. Looking to branch out more towards the east has spurned the recent erection of billboards presenting Westfield State to the masses on 291 and other highways.

Acting C.E.O. Barry Maloney who's new position within Westfield State involves him with public relations and student affairs said he wants to, "Enhance the message of Westfield and the school and take out to the rest of the commonwealth."

He stressed students, along with faculty and alumni, to spread the word of Westfield State.

Maloney said by working with city officials and gathering further input from students he will be able to take that information forward and make the city of Westfield a more college friendly place.

Mass Prig representative Angie Francis spoke to the members of S.G.A. about the "Affordable Text Book Campaign". Francis said Mass Prig is trying to find ways to help students save money, and bring down the major publishing corporations that supply college students with books.

Francis said after much media attention this issue has launched a Congressional matter and cannot be dropped now.

She said she hopes working with Student Govemment and other opinion leaders Mass Prig will be able to gather enough support to put an end to the over pricing.

The meeting was concluded with Student Government Association President Matt Curren stating, "As of today all goals were met" with much praise. All hall council positions have been filled 21 out of the 19. Senior night has been approved and the first Red Cross Blood drive of the year had 126 students give blood. All S.G.A. meetings are held on Thursdays in Ely at 5:30 p.m. every week.

"As of today all goals were met."

Matt Curren
President of S.G.A.

Voice of the Week

Mary Murphy

GO SOX

Role at WSC: A Checker at the DC

Number of years spent working at WSC: Eleven years next month

Favorite thing about WSC: The kids, she loves them

Favorite movie: Love Story, "Even though it was sad."

Favorite TV Show: Everybody Loves Raymond

Favorite quote: "Jack of all trades, master of none."

Hobbies: Working in her garden and working outside

Favorite DC meal: Caesar salad with chicken

Mary would like everyone to know that there is a lost and found in the DC so if you have lost something, go check it out!

-Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

Scene from the sidelines at the Westfield, Worcester State football game during family weekend

Circle K

Ely 3rd World Room
Wednesday nights @ 7 p.m.
Come see what it's all about!

Get involved!
Make a difference!
Join Circle K!

Voices Overheard

How 'bout them Red Sox?

Lindsay McMillan
Kelly Forsythe
2007

"They're definitely going all the way this year."

Eric Martinez
2008
Music Performance

"Red Sox f---ing rule!"

Ryan Hackett
2006
Mathematics

"Go local sports team. Hurrah."

Ben Sousa
2008
Liberal Studies

"Ellis Burns is the key to the playoffs."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

Degon's Custom T's

Quality silk screened goods

Corey W. Degon

P.O. Box 306
Three Rivers, MA 10180

Phone: 413-433-0489
Fax: 413-283-8257
E-mail: degonscustomts@yahoo.com
Website: www.degonscustomts.com

Attention NSE applicants!

Informational meeting schedule for 2005-2006 academic year placements

Dates	
Wednesday, October 20	4pm
Thursday, October 28	4 pm
Wednesday, November 3	4pm
Thursday, November 11	4pm
Wednesday, November 17	4pm
Wednesday December 1	4pm
Thursday December 2	4pm

All meetings will be held in Ely 233

NSE applications can be found under "important forms" on the Campus Center website: http://www.wsc.ma.edu/campus-center/forms.htm

Visit NSE online at www.nse.org
Application deadline for priority placement is December 16, 2004!
For more information please contact

Problems Are Likely With Upcoming Election Count

By Michael Hill
The Baltimore Sun

Four years ago, the talk after the presidential election was about hanging chads. This November, it might be about bad code.

That would be computer code. With more and more Americans depending on computer programs to tally their votes, it would not be surprising if somewhere along the line the same type of glitch that occasionally keeps your home PC from booting up pops up in the polling process.

And if it does, it is highly unlikely to be a little-noticed local problem. Next month's vote is shaping up to be the most scrutinized election in U.S. history.

In every one of the dozen or so battleground states, the entire election process will be subject to constant surveillance by both parties and a variety of other interest groups. Teams of lawyers are on standby, ready to jump in.

All that attention will be focused on an election that not only leans heavily on new – and mostly untested – technology but also features a huge number of new voters and a passel of new requirements for identification.

It might not be a recipe for disaster, but it is akin to a host deciding to make the most complicated dish found in a French cookbook for the first time for an important dinner party. Some problems are to be anticipated.

"When it's a close election, that magnifies all kinds of problems that are normally unnoticed," says Douglas W. Jones, a computer scientist who specializes in election technology at the University of Iowa. "Because of that, we could have, at the same time, one of the most controversial and one of the best-run elections in our history."

Only a few years ago, veteran political junkies were gnashing that the wee-hours drama had been drained from election nights by exit polls and network projections. That is no longer the case.

Those who stayed up all night in 2000 still did not know who won. If the vote next month is anywhere near as close as the one in 2000, it would not be surprising to find the outcome up in the air for an extended period of time.

"Americans are anticipating a close election and are probably braced to wait a while for the final outcome," says Paul S. Herrnson, director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, College Park. "But a stalemate like that of 2000 can create tremendous harm. Many people believe that the Supreme Court was out of line in the way it decided the 2000 election and that democracy was subverted.

That can't happen many times before people lose faith in the political system."

One thing the 2000 election drove home is that the election is not a careful count of each vote cast. Forget the election night tally on your TV screen, thousands of votes are not counted for one reason or another – spoiled ballots, absentee ballots that won't change the outcome, machine breakdowns. It turns out to be an expected and accepted part of the process.

"Think about how many participants we have in a nationwide election," Jones says. "Four years ago, 110 million people voted. There are over 3,000 counties in the United States, so you have over 3,000 chief election officers, probably on the order of 1 million election workers. ... Show me any human enterprise with that number of people involved where there aren't mistakes made and dishonest people involved."

The election, it turns out, is more the final opinion poll. Most polls have a sample of about 1,000 voters and a 3.5 percent margin of error. The Election Day poll has a sample of more than 100 million and an infinitesimal margin of error. In 2000, the result was within that tiny margin of error. Statistically, it was a tie.

"I think the 2000 election was a big wake-up call for many Americans," says Ronald Walters, director of the African American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland, College Park. "People never dreamed that as many ballots were being spoiled and thrown out as there were."

"It was a big shock to the whole democratic process," Walters says. "As a result, people are very suspicious."

A result of the 2000 debacle was the Help America Vote Act, passed by Congress in 2002. Among other things, it aims to get rid of the punch card ballots that produced those controversial chads in Florida. Just as the No Child Left Behind Act has school districts across the country scrambling to meet its requirements, HAVA has election officials in a similar mode.

> "The first thing you should do is vote. Then you can be suspicious of the systems. But first, vote."
>
> -Douglas W. Jones

Among its provisions is one requiring photo identification for first-time voters who registered by mail. Some states will require such IDs for all voters. The idea is to combat voter fraud, but some fear that the requirement will lead to confusion and be used to intimidate legally registered voters.

That has drawn the attention of Walters, who is active this year in what he calls a "nonpartisan turnout group" called the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation, a group that he says has more than 2,000 lawyers and law students signed up to stand by on Election Day.

"They will be poised at the end of a hot line, ready to do injunctions, things like that," he says, seeking to insure that anti-fraud measures are not used to keep legitimate voters from casting ballots.

Those lawyers are only a fraction of the many ready to spring into action Nov. 2 and beyond. Florida in 2000 taught candidates that Election Day, instead of occupying its traditional role as the end of the partisan battle, can be only its beginning.

HAVA was supposed to help avoid that, not only by getting rid of punch cards but also by requiring states to come up with a statewide list of registered voters – which would help resolve problems at the polling places – and a way to allow people whose registration is in dispute to cast provisional ballots that would not be counted until the problem is resolved. The problem with HAVA is that it might be too much, too late.

"I don't think a lot of blame can be placed on the states," says Michael Alvarez, a political scientist at the California Institute of Technology. "It took a long time to get the Help America Vote Act passed, and it is only in the last year or year-and-a-half that funds have been made available to the states to implement it.

"It would have been nice if the act had passed in 2001 and been fully funded then," says Alvarez, part of a joint project between Cal Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to improve the voting process, announced in the wake of the 2000 problems. "In the long run, the act itself has a lot in it that is going to be very positive for the voter and the voting process."

Few states have managed to come up with their voter lists. Some states still have plenty of the punch card machines – most notably Ohio, a major battleground. Plenty of others are bringing new processes online and are expecting the kind of glitches that always come the first time around as voters and poll workers learn the ropes.

Jones, however, emphasizes that, there is only one way to make sure your vote is not counted: by not voting.

"The first thing you should do is vote," he says. "Then you can be suspicious of the systems. But first, vote."

Beatles Get Back To U.S. Sound

By Randy Lewis
Los Angeles Times

America, meet the Beatles. Again.

For the first time in the CD era, Capitol Records is issuing the Fab Four's albums as they originally appeared and sounded in the United States. The first batch will be bundled in a four-CD set and titled "The Capitol Albums, Vol. 1," to be released Nov. 16. It is expected to retail for about $70 and will include "Meet the Beatles," "The Beatles Second Album," "Something New" and "Beatles '65," each CD in a cover replicating the original artwork, plus a 48-page booklet of photos, news clippings and other artifacts from the period.

The group's entire catalog has been available on CD since 1987, but when those came out, Capitol and its parent, EMI Records, standardized them according to the way they first came out in England.

For the first few years of the Beatles' career, however, U.S. fans got strikingly different versions of their albums. It wasn't until the 1967 release of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" that a Beatles album appeared the same on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

"Since I got to Capitol 3 1/2 years ago, I've thought it would be great to be able to have those records to listen to again," Capitol Records President and CEO Andy Slater said Tuesday. "I remember as a kid 'cooking at those records and listening to that sequence of songs. . . . For better or worse, that's the way I remember those records."

So do millions of U.S. Beatlemaniacs. Not only were the album titles different – "With the Beatles" became "Meet the Beatles" here – but the song selection and sequencing were markedly different than the U.K. versions.

Additionally, recordings were issued here in stereo (some in simulated stereo and some with reverberation added). Each of the new CDs will include both the American stereo versions and the original British mono mixes.

"I remember pretty distinctly listening in the basement of my cousin's house to 'Beatles 65' and hearing 'No Reply' followed by 'I'm a Loser' and then 'Baby's in Black,'" Slater said. "I can even remember hearing 'I Saw Her Standing There,' and the voices coming out of the right speaker. . . . If nostalgia is the intoxicant of the Baby Boomer generation, then the versions that are currently available are not as intoxicating for me to listen to."

-File Photo

The Beatles

The alterations, originally characterized as "Americanizations," were long a sore point for the Beatles and their longtime producer, George Martin, who complained that Capitol executives at the time were more interested in making as much money as possible than presenting the music as the band intended.

Beatles fans have argued for decades over Capitol's handling of the group's catalog, because the U.S. albums included fewer songs than the British versions, allowing Capitol to release 10 albums from 1964 to 1966 while just seven had appeared in England.

The decision to alter the albums for U.S. release is commonly traced to the man then in charge of artists and repertoire (A&R) for the label, Dave Dexter, who, ironically, had declined to sign the group in 1963.

"These are the choices made by the man who turned them down four times because he thought they were hopeless and had no future in America whatsoever," says British-born Beatles historian Martin Lewis. "And then he had the chutzpah to put his name on as producer (of the U.S. releases) after he was overruled about signing them by the president of Capitol, Alan Livingston."

Slater, however, says "I don't think it was a matter of anybody A&R-ing their records here. They literally delivered 80 masters. . . . So in 1964, when Capitol decided to put the first record out, they had 80 songs to sift through and make a record out of."

Adds Lewis: "Even if Capitol had wanted to, they couldn't have mirrored the 'With the Beatles' album in the U.S.," in large part because Vee Jay held the U.S. rights to several of the songs on that British release.

Instead, "Meet the Beatles" included the singles "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "I Saw Her Standing There" that had not appeared on "With the Beatles." Meanwhile, the group's covers of Chuck Berry's "Roll Over Beethoven," the Marvelettes' "Please Mr. Postman," the Miracles' "You've Really Got a Hold On Me" and Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" on "With the Beatles" were left off "Meet the Beatles."

In 1987, Capitol and EMI, at the behest of the surviving Beatles and Martin, agreed to issue the albums according to their original British configurations when they were released for the first time on CD.

Slater said it hasn't been determined how or when the label will issue the U.S. versions of the other albums that differ from the British catalog: "The Early Beatles," "Beatles VI," "Help!," "Rubber Soul," "Yesterday . . . and Today," "Revolver" and "Hey Jude," a 1970 U.S.-only compilation of various singles that had never previously appeared on a U.S. album.

Parents Fight Autistic Boy's Playground Banishment

BY ELIZABETH MEHREN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

FALMOUTH, Maine – Ten-year-old Jan Rankowski started out a recent school day learning to locate objects with a compass and working on his programming skills at a computer. When it was time for a study break, he went outside and climbed on the jungle gym.

But Jan played alone, as he has for a year since officials here banned him from the elementary school playground near his house.

School administrators said the move was necessary because Jan, who has a form of autism called Asperger's syndrome, used profanity on the playground and failed to respond to authority figures. Jan's parents, Gayle Fitzpatrick and Charles Rankowski, have sued to regain privileges for their child.

A lower court judge has ruled in favor of the school district; the case is pending before the Maine Supreme Court, and a ruling is expected by next summer.

"What we are suing for is not just for Jan," Charles Rankowski said, "but so that thousands of other kids with Asperger's can't be thrown off a playground because they don't look a teacher in the eye when he says hello."

Melissa A. Hewey, an attorney for the Falmouth school board, described the dispute as "a personal issue between the parents and the school" and said there was no foundation to Jan's parents' claim of discrimination. Other autistic children, Hewey said, have used the playground without a problem.

Rankowski and Fitzpatrick are homeschooling Jan. In most subjects, he works substantially above the fifth-grade level, where he would be placed in a public school.

But poor social skills are a hallmark of Asperger's syndrome. Jan, a sturdy child with tousled brown hair, speaks to people when he chooses and seldom makes eye contact. He lacks the normal neurological filtering system that tells most children his age when it is advisable to make certain remarks and when it is not.

"He does not socialize in traditional manners, or at all," Fitzpatrick said.

For example, Jan once informed a school official that she was the first principal he had met who was not obese. He used an insult that school officials said was obscene when some children taunted him. He "gives his two cents' worth," his mother observed, "even when nobody needs to hear it."

"This is not exactly a behavioral problem," Fitzpatrick said, "because a behavioral problem is when you know the difference. His issues are neurological. They are involuntary. It is verbal miscommunication, not aggression."

The family's lawyer acknowledged that about a year ago – just before the playground ban was issued – Jan had "groined" another child during an altercation with three boys who were teasing him. Attorney Ron Coles said the principal investigated the incident, concluded there was bullying and said all the participants were at fault.

The playground discrimination lawsuit has generated considerable attention in this town of 10,000. Disability advocacy groups nationwide are watching the case carefully.

"It is a red-flag issue when we hear that, because of a disability, a child is not being permitted to take part in an activity that other kids can," said Brewster Thackeray, vice president of the National Organization on Disability in Washington.

> **"We are fighting this because we are American citizens. And because my son has the same rights as every other American citizen, disabled or not. And that includes playing on a playground."**
>
> **-Gayle Fitzpatrick**

"We know that a lot of times these things happen because of misunderstanding," Thackeray said. "It is outrageous to expect an administrator of a school to be familiar with every disability. But we hope for a level of sensitivity."

About 1.5 million people in the United States have autism. With refined diagnostic techniques, that number could increase. Fitzpatrick says she receives dozens of phone calls and hundreds of e-mails each week from parents of autistic children.

David B. Jones, an associate professor in the department of leisure and recreation studies at the University of Southern Maine, said it was a Catch-22 when children with disabilities were asked to leave a playground. "If these kids aren't allowed to engage with other children," he said, "they are going to be further marginalized."

When that happens, Jones said, "they don't develop play skills, which are very important. That is how young people and children develop."

Fitzpatrick and Rankowski balked when school officials wanted to evaluate Jan's social maturity. The two have reams of papers reflecting scores of tests performed on their son. They say the evaluations demonstrate that Jan does not play at his age level. They also contend that their son was always accompanied on the playground by a parent and a school aide.

But Hewey said the parents failed to furnish "enough information to make the child's experience on the playground successful."

In the meantime, Jan spends his "recess" bouncing on his backyard trampoline or swinging on the bars of the play structure his father built. After school, he takes karate, piano and drama classes – "all the things that traditional kids do," his mother said.

Fitzpatrick said she expected her son to go to college, and Jan said he might study computer science or video-game development.

The family is aware, Fitzpatrick says, that whatever decision the state Supreme Court makes will be too late for Jan, who will be too old to use the elementary-school playground by the time the judgment is rendered.

"We are fighting this because we are American citizens," she said. "And because my son has the same rights as every other American citizen, disabled or not. And that includes playing on a playground."

Boys Lyrics Earn Visit From Mellencamp

BY CYNTHIA DANIELS
NEWSDAY

BALDWIN, N.Y. – More than 140 students at Milburn Elementary School rocked to the tunes of John Mellencamp Tuesday as the star gave a private performance in the school gymnasium.

Mellencamp's visit was the grand prize in Nickelodeon's "Speak Up, Rock Out" Sweepstakes, part of the network's Kids Pick the President Campaign. Milburn's students have sweepstakes winner Anthony Viggiano, 7, to thank for the performance. Anthony submitted song lyrics in August about what freedom of speech means to him and was chosen, at random from thousands of entries, as the winner in September.

"Freedom of speech right now is in danger in this country," Mellencamp said after the concert. "It's a great thing for Nickelodeon to remind people what freedom of speech is all about."

For Anthony, a third grader, the lesson took a back seat to the concert. A big John Mellencamp fan, Anthony said he entered the contest hoping that the rock star would come to his school.

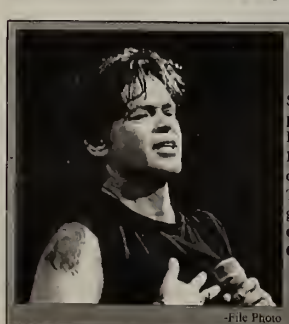
"He loves John Mellencamp's music," said Anthony's mom, Virginia Viggiano. "He always listens to it with me."

Virginia Viggiano said Anthony looked up the words, "independence," "freedom" and "liberty" in a children's dictionary, transforming his thoughts about the words into a song. "Freedom of speech means you can say whatever you want to say," Anthony said. "Every word counts."

Mellencamp started the mini-concert with "Freedom of Speech," a song that he wrote using lyrics from each of the 20 final entries, also picked randomly. "Freedom of speech, freedom to say, freedom to think," Mellencamp sang. He used Anthony's line, "I feel tomorrow holds out its hand to me" as the song's bridge.

As he sang, seated in front of student-made posters of the American flag, yellow ribbons and the Earth, the children clapped, swayed and bounced. Before leaving Mellencamp answered students' questions and sang "Pink Houses" and "Small Town."

"The concert was fantastic," said Anthony, who had thoroughly prepared for the event by going to bed an hour early on Monday night and asking for gel in his hair Tuesday morning.



Singer John Mellencamp performed at Milburn Elementary School in Baldwin , N.Y. last Tuesday, October 12, 2004. The concert was the grand prize In Nickelodeon's "Speak Up, Rock Out" Sweepstakes.

-File Photo

Court to Rule on Public Display of Ten Commandments

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court, which has been closely split on religious issues, announced Tuesday that it will decide whether a government display of the Ten Commandments at public buildings violates the First Amendment's ban on "an establishment of religion."

Plaques and monuments depicting the biblical commandments stand at the center of the continuing dispute over the meaning of the U.S. Constitution. Does it create a "wall of separation between church and state," as President Thomas Jefferson once said, or does it permit officials to publicly recognize the nation's religious heritage?

The court said it would take up two Ten Commandment cases.

The first concerns a 6-foot-tall granite monument just outside the main entrance of the Texas State Capitol in Austin. A gift from the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1961, it stands in the vicinity of several other monuments, including memorials to Texas war veterans.

The Texas case has an unusual history. Thomas Van Orden, a former criminal defense lawyer who became homeless after suffering a mental disorder, brought a suit against the state and argued his own case.

"I didn't sue religion," Van Orden, 59, said last year. "I sued the state for putting a religious monument on the Capitol grounds."

Though Van Orden lost in the federal courts, the Supreme Court agreed to hear his case. Former University of Southern California law Professor Erwin Chemerinsky wrote his appeal in Van Orden vs. Perry.

The second case arose when judges in three eastern Kentucky counties decided in 1999 to post copies of the Ten Commandments in their courthouses. The American Civil Liberties Union sued and won, but the Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal from the judges in McCreary County vs. ACLU.

The outcome at the Supreme Court probably depends on Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. In past cases, she has asked whether the government's action appears to endorse religion. If so, she has voted to strike it down as unconstitutional.

For example, she joined her liberal colleagues in ruling that city officials in Pittsburgh went too far when they displayed a scene of Christ's birth inside the county courthouse during the winter holidays. O'Connor also joined with the liberals to rule that public school officials may not have a student deliver a prayer over the public address system.

However, she also has voted with her conservative colleagues in upholding the use of state tax money that allowed parents to send their children to religious schools. These "vouchers" do not endorse religion, she said, but merely give parents more choices for education.

The other eight justices are more predictable. The conservative faction, led by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, has said the government may aid religion in general, so long as it does not favor a particular faith. The liberal faction, led by Justice John Paul Stevens, has supported the separation-of-church-and-state principle and says the government may not promote religious views.

It is possible that O'Connor would vote with Rehnquist to uphold the display of the Commandments outside the Texas Capitol because it sits among several other monuments, and also vote with Stevens to strike down the display of the Commandments in the Kentucky courthouse.

The two cases will be argued in February in the Supreme Court, where a partial depiction of the Commandments can be seen in a ceiling panel high above the courtroom.

In 1932, when the Supreme Court building was under construction, Adolph Weinman was hired to sculpt a ceiling panel that depicted 18 famous lawgivers. They include Hammurabi from ancient Babylon, Solomon of ancient Israel and Confucius as well as Sir William Blackstone, the 18th-century English jurist, and Napoleon Bonapate, the French emperor. It also includes Moses, holding a tablet that represents the Ten Commandments.

OPINION

Letter to the Editors

To the Editors:

Dear Ms. Engel,

I am a life-long resident of Westfield and a non-traditional student currently completing my Master's Degree at WSC. I still find the time to pick up a copy of The Voice and keep up to date on the views and opinions of your contributors. I want to commend you for the stand you have taken in your Letter From the Editor in the Sept. 20th edition of The Voice and for championing the cause of free speech for yourself, your staff, and others in your position. While I do not always agree with your viewpoints, I have always enjoyed reading your articles and I especially support your effort to expose the truth behind some of the stories that those on campus and in our community never seem to hear about. Specifically, I am referring to the "soccer incident" last year that you spoke of, and while the exact details escape me, it was nice to see someone attempting to educate the readers about the true nature of some of the more insidious incidents that seem to get neatly swept under the rug by the administration and faculty, not to mention students. While I don't get every issue of The Voice, I am not aware as to whether or not the "hockey house incident" was covered last year and if there is any planned follow-up planned. I would be interested to know because I don't think enough people understand how incidents like these affect the larger community as well as the campus community. If you have the time, I would love to hear back from, but understand if that is not a normal practice. In the meantime, keep doing what you are doing; you do it very well and I applaud you.

- Doug LaValley

This Bush isn't green

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

In the second Presidential debate, there were exchanges and accusations from both candidates on the opposition's stance on the issues. But one question led President Bush to inaccurately describe his administration's record on the subject of the environment. "Mr. President, how would you rate yourself as an environmentalist? What specifically has your administration done to improve the condition of our nation's air and water supply?" The truth is that the current President has one of the worst environmental records of any past presidency and his plan for the next four years isn't any better.

President Bush responded to the question by talking about his plan to reduce pollution from off-road diesel engines, increase the wetlands, restore inner-city brown-fields, and his Clear Skies Initiative that supposedly would "reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury by 70 percent." Bush also added "I guess you'd say I'm a good steward of the land." Unfortunately, many environmental groups, including Environment2004, disagree with the President's claims.

After the debate had concluded, the green group Environment2004 began fact checking and put out a press release that contradicted every claim the President made on his good deeds towards the environment. During his administration, the EPA issued a rule that would make it easier for power plants to evade installing new technology that would reduce the large amounts of cooling water they use. Bush also replaced the Roadless Area Conservation Rule with a weaker petition that would essentially eliminate federal protections from corporate logging and mining in national forests. The President also claimed that he has a plan to "increase the wetlands by three million." Yet he announced in 2003 his intent to eliminate Clean Water Act protections that guarded 20 million acres of wetlands from destruction.

The Clear Skies Initiative has become a very controversial issue for the President, and has not been passed in Congress yet. It claims to create a mandatory program that would dramatically reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury by setting a national cap on each pollutant. But in reality, it is likely to allow five times as much mercury into the environment from coal-burning power plants compared to the Clear Air Act that the current source for regulations. That's almost 26 tons per year versus five tons that is currently allowed.

Another controversial decision made by President Bush was not to allow the Kyoto climate control to enter the U.S. Senate for ratification. It was signed under the Clinton administration and would limit the emission of greenhouse gases linked to global warming. Bush claimed that he thought it would cost a lot but Kerry criticized him for letting the treaty become dead after the work of "160 nations over ten years."

President Bush's record on the environment is not pretty and his corporate contributors are getting the benefits of such weak laws and protections. Both Environment2004 and the Sierra Club are working in part to get Kerry elected because of his more environment friendly plan for America and in hopes that he will help keep the air and water cleaner than the current President has.

WSC Riot 2003: The untold story

"A NICKEL'S WORTH"
BY BOB MCDONALD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I was coming out of the shower on October 6th when I first heard someone utter, "Do you think we'll have another riot this year?" Most likely this was in response to the bright yellow letter from Dr. Arthur Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Colin Drury, the Student Government's Vice President of Student Life, that all residents had received earlier in the day. The letter warned students that all college policies would be strictly enforced, regardless of how well the Boston Red Sox are doing.

The question came, ironically, on the one-year anniversary of the riot held last year following the Red Sox victory in game four of the series. I use the term riot loosely, however. The events that took place were far less serious than the news media made them out to be. I know this because I was there to see it. To those outside the college, however, the only news they heard was of unruly college students destroying state property.

I think that many students on this campus failed to grasp the severity of the situation. This is particularly true of those students proudly wearing tee shirts claiming to have "survived" the "riot." There were three distinctive actions taken by the college in regards to the riot. First, those found to have flipped over the maintenance vehicle were found, expelled, and formally charged for their actions. Sadly, these events were not covered by the Voice and thus went unnoticed by a majority of the campus. Secondly, the school beefed up security around campus on game nights, going so far as to have officers in full riot gear guarding the Dining Commons on one occasion. Thirdly, President Woodward's office, taking a proactive approach, paid for food for anyone who wanted to watch the game peacefully in Ely Campus Center.

President Woodward, who retired at the end of last year, made the announcement at the Board of Trustees annual meeting a few days later. His rationale for not imposing a fine on each student, in the same manner that residence hall damages are distributed was that he felt this event was an abnormality. These events, he said, where not representative of Westfield students. While this was Woodward's public statement of being a good-cop, the unspoken bad-cop statement was clear: a repeat event would not be treated so leniently.

Sports rioting is an enigma to me. It is a prime example of how too much emphasis, or at least the incorrect emphasis is place on sports in our society. Breaking glass, flipping cars, and lighting fires accomplish absolutely nothing for the team or those involved. All such action does is tarnish one's reputation and, in this case, the college's as well.

I will go on record as saying that I hope the Red Sox win, if only so that their faithful fans will be able to say they saw the team win. I would love to see a group of students on the green, chanting and recounting the highlights of a game well played. That is truly one of the great things about sports: they bring a diverse group of people together by showcasing a common interest.

Rioting, on the other hand, undermines all the good things for which sports are supposed to stand. It turns responsible people into savage, immature beasts and it leaves a black mark on an otherwise truly enjoyable event. In the case of us, as college students, it sends out a message loud and clear that we are the stereotype: drunken college students more concerned with sports, drinking, and mayhem than anything else.

This year, lets bury the stereotype and the curse. Please celebrate responsibly.

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Take this cup

"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice Columnist

Throughout Western tradition, there have been moments of human weakness. Of doubt in one's principles and uncertainty of the true moral right. A wavering of courage, a floundering of idealism.

Perhaps the most touching of moments in the Christian faith, which I generally try to politely abstain from, is Jesus' passing through Gethsemane. During this scene, Jesus demonstrates an act of human frailty when he asks if his father would will it that he not die.

But, being the Christ, he has to. Eventually the soldiers do come, take Jesus away, and Mel Gibson makes a movie. In the light of the sad, malformed abortion of politics that has become this election, I have, in my own self-aggrandizing way, passed through a personal, philosophical Gethsemane full of the tasty Olives that are my opinions.

You see, I've been dwelling on the purpose of censorship in modern American culture. Theoretically, censorship is intended to prevent the exposure of "harmful" material to people, ostensible children for the most part. What "harmful" means has been debated by the full range of smut-peddling civil libertarians, "family values" clad fascists, and everyone in-between.

My own beliefs on the obsolescence of the concept of obscenity are pretty well leaning towards the smut-peddling civil libertarian camp. Simply put, I believe there should be no law against putting anything on the air. If NBC want to put three hours of old men copulating with horses on the television, let them. The ratings will determine what the people want, and the networks will obey.

The power of the people is an awesome, frightening, often icky, and ultimately mindless thing to behold.

Keeping this in mind, I have to admit there is one area where I believe censorship might be an acceptable evil. I loathe to admit it, but there are certain media elements that do present a clear and present danger to this country, one great enough to overshadow our beloved constitution.

A poll taken roughly a month ago indicated that 18% of the adult population (around 40 million people) believed that John Kerry "misrepresented his war record and does not deserve his war medals." This mass of public ignorance is due in no small part to the infamous Swift Boat ads, which bravely slandered Kerry in search for the truth. Now, I won't postulate on the size of cajones you need to slam a Vietnam vet when you're backing a president whose daddy got him into the national guard, but it's worth noting that both sides pretty much agree the ads were lies.

I won't get into my distain for the jackasses at the RNC who wore Band-Aids with purple hearts on them all the while cheering for a president who has a less impressive service record than Elvis Freaking Presley, either.

That said, take a breath, and honestly appreciate what that information means. A clearly untrue smear ad convinced 40 million people of a lie. That's a pretty hefty impact, even if it hit mostly what we like to call "the far left of the bell curve." Now, I think that the election of the commander-in-chief is a pretty significant issue. Wars are waged and allies alienated by the actions of our Dear Leader. Personally, I think 18% of the country being deceived on a matter of such import is a bit more harmful than little Jonny learning about S-E-X with C-O-Ws from the television.

As the law stands now, campaign commercials don't have to be true, but they must be aired. John Kerry could make an ad that claims that there is extensive, documented proof that George Bush was behind 9/11, and NBC would be required by law to show it. Bush could claim Kerry eats babies, and any network that chose to air any campaign commercial would have to air it. The solution isn't censoring the message content or enforcing the truth. Both are ineffective and subjective. The only true solution is to ban all political ads.

I want to be fair, here, though. I don't just want the other guy's ads off the air. I want them all off. If you want information on a party or candidate's views, if you want point-counterpoint, you're going to have to get it from something with marginally more substance than a 30 second sound bite.

Imagine that.

This is for the spectators

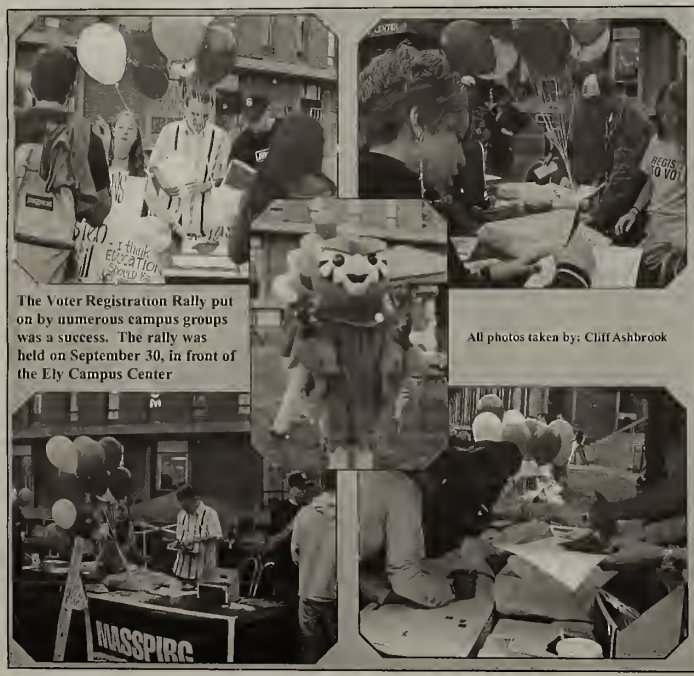
"Campus Commentary"
By Sarah Cagan
Voice Columnist

Sports are the American symbolic equivalent to war. Just by collecting qualitative observations on the Westfield State campus this theory is proven time and time again. The Red Sox rage is as rampant as influenza in this college. The amount of vehemence and other such emotions that go into this one team amazes me. I understand watching a game and getting involved in the outcome, but never have I been brought to a point of screaming barbarically or squelching off fgohorns in the middle of the night. There are so many other things that we can be passionate about and yet the infatuation is saved for a team of men in tight pants, who knows how to handle their balls, and run around in a diamond pattern.

With the elections so close you would think that college students would be pondering their future and who they want to vote for. The debates are a fund of entertainment, but the lack of interest in this area is astounding. Instead of politics the students are flinging baseball terms and scores. IN this world we have so much that needs our attention and vigilance, but I guess that would be wasted on anything not baseball oriented.

I am not bashing the sport itself, just the trance like attention it holds for many of my peers. What is it that makes people so enthused about a sport? In reality it's nothing more than well-developed people playing a game, but in the mind of the spectators it is war. In the past years riots have been started and violence has occurred. Does this seem absurd to anyone else? At what point do we human beings turn over cars because of a strike out or an unsteady hand? Where was the riot when Bush started to bomb another country? Where was the shouting when Enron raped its legitimate workers? Why must this vigor be saved for people who make their living by throwing a ball or hitting a homerun?

I will probably be aggravating the angry fans with my spectator sports slurs, but I will not regret that. Maybe it is time to get angry about something that doesn't involve innings. Maybe next time you feel your blood pressure rise while watching a strike this will come to mind. There are just so many more just reasons to have a coronary. Arguing over a team's immensity will only take you so far in life. Try getting involved in something that requires actual thought instead of yelling at athletes (who can't hear you by the way) on a television screen. If this pisses you off...good! At least you'll have another output then an athletic event. How long will people be able to remain a spectator? When are people going to stop watching the sport and get into the game?



The Voter Registration Rally put on by numerous campus groups was a success. The rally was held on September 30, in front of the Ely Campus Center

All photos taken by: Cliff Ashbrook

Westfield State College Alumni Relations Office Presents

Homecoming - Saturday, October 23
Blues and Brews at Owlfest 2004

Beer Garden to highlight Homecoming 2004 Noon to 5p.m. (Rear Alumni Field)

Four microbreweries, Bavarian style cookout authentic Bavarian music and five reunions on campus; Classes of 1954, 1984, 1989, 2002 and former group/orientation leaders.

Tours of the new Woodward Academic & Athletic Center

Gridiron Club Scholarship reception - open to all (Woodward Center lounge, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Women's Basketball Alumni Game - 10:00 a.m. to 1p.m. (Woodward Center)

WSC football v. Framingham State 1:00 p.m. @ Alumni field

Fun Zone for kids of all ages - Adjacent to Beer Garden, 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Alumni Art Exhibition in the Arno Maris Gallery

Ed Abar Scholarship Dinner in the Scanlon Banquet Hall - (5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

Jazz Legend "Charles Neville" of the "Neville Brothers" performs with the alumni band "The Skeletones" in Dever Auditorium. The WSC Jazz Band opens at 7 p.m. (free)

Lend a hand, be a star!

Need volunteer experience?

The Discover Children's Museum is in need of student volunteers for flexible hours at your convenience!

Projects include crafts, organizing activities and face painting!

To join the student volunteer contact list, call Diana Farrell at 413-204-5567

R.A.D.

Rape Aggression Defense System

Offered at WSC

Residential Life and the Department of Public Safety are holding Women's Self Defense Classes

THURSDAY OCT. 21, 2004
TUESDAY OCT. 26, 2004
THURSDAY OCT. 28, 2004
TUESDAY NOV. 2, 2004
TUESDAY NOV. 9, 2004
6P.M. - 9P.M.
Location T.B.A.

Interested? Have questions? If you can commit to all 5 dates,contact:
Days- Jes Rich at ext. 5533
Nights- Officer Jay Hastings at ext. 5262

Class size is limited to 16 so don't hesitate to call!

YOUR WEEKLY FORECASTS BY MADAME INEZ

I'm back my darlings, and I'm happy to say my ALL FOWERFUL SEEING EYE is stronger this week then ever! But readers beware, my predictions are not for the weak of heart...

ARIES: Congratulations! You've finally gotten something you wanted! Unfortunately, since you're such an arrogant jerk, you probably sold out everyone who loves you to get it so now you get to celebrate alone! Pour yourself a glass of champagne and throw Celine Dion's "All By Myself" into the CD player because your friends have finally seen the real you and have run for their lives!

TAURUS: Something amazing is going to happen this week, something you've been waiting an eternity for! Too bad you were too much of a pansy to take this opportunity. That's right, you lose! Wh-wh-wh-what the hell are you so scared of Taurus? Never mind, it doesn't even matter anymore. Get used to your boring, monotonous life because you just ruined the best thing that COULD HAVE happened to you. Welcome to the wonderful world of regret!

GEMINI: Aww, i see you've found true love! When you're with your partner everything is right with the world! The birds are chirping, the sun shining, the flowers blooming, your friends are puking...puking? GET A CLUE GEMINI! You've officially become one half of that annoying couple who insists upon walking around campus with their arms wrapped around each other. You're too blinded by your infatuation to realize that the rest of the world hates you and your friends have lost all respect for you since you've become so whipped. Ugh...you make me sick.

CANCER: It's been a stressful week hasn't it? Had a lot of homework lately? Having problems balancing out school, work and a social life? WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD CANCER! Quite your bitchin! You think life is hard? Try living the life of your parents and and support your own sorry, whiny ass. If life is so hard why don't you just drop out? I'm sure McDonald's is hiring, might as well save yourself a couple of years and the humiliation of wasting a degree because you're already going to end up there anyways.

LEO: Well, look at you Leo! It seems like everyone adores you. You can't remember the last time you had so many dinner dates and it's all because you're so wonderful! HA! Don't kid yourself! Everyone on campus just knows you're a sure thing! Cheap dinner, a couple of beers and you're in bed before your date can ask their roommate to disappear for a whole 8.5 minutes. Congratulations! You've just become the new WSC mascot, the horse, and everyone's had a ride!

VIRGO: Repeat after me Virgo, "I am a college student who has still got the rest of my life ahead of me." By that I mean, SLOW THE HELL DOWN!! Tricking your significant other into getting pregnant doesn't make you more mature than the rest of us, it just makes you a freak! A now single-parent freak who has to raise and support a child all by themselves because all your friends are too busy enjoying college to lend you a hand. But hey, you wanted to be an adult!

PISCES: You've got it all figured out haven't you Pisces? You're certain that you have finally solved all of life's mysteries and you can't wait to share them with the rest of the world. Unfortunately some people don't agree with you so you logically decide that the only thing left to do is force yourself and your ideas on people, everyone needs a leader right? WRONG! What could you possibly accomplish burning crosses on the green? You're not converting people, you're scaring people. Back off Hitler, you're gonna get yourself killed.

LIBRA: Ever since you're ex called you last week you've been thinking about rekindling that old flame. Even though you only talked for three minutes and most of your conversation consisted of them accusing you of stalking and threatening to call the police, you're sure there's still some love in their voice...THERE'S NOT! Trust me Libra, they've moved on and so should you. This is why they dumped you in the first place, you're too clingy and needy and that frightens people. So stop standing outside their window Libra, you're making yourself look pathetic.

SCORPIO: Green isn't a very good color for you Scorpio, and I'm not just talking about your sudden case of envy. Those green shoes you bought trying to keep up with the latest trends don't look good on you! In fact, nothing particularly looks good on you so why bother wasting your money on the expensive clothes everyone else is wearing. You're never going to fit in, so stop trying and find your own identity. You might finally realize you're a loser, but at least you'll be true to yourself.

SAGGITARIUS: You're a social butterfly this week, fluttering around from party to party. You can barely walk ten feet on campus without someone congratulating you on the awesome keg stand you did last week. Unfortunately, that keg stand made you so drunk that you incoherently slept with that nasty kid down the hall and you've contracted crabs! Ahhh...that explains the itching and burning doesn't it! My advise to you is to hop over to health services, get some ointment, wash your sheets and lay off the booze you lush.

CAPRICORN: Nothing ever goes your way huh? Everything good always happens to your friends instead of you and you obviously deserve it more!! Life just isn't fair...Get over yourself Capricorn. Did you ever think that while you were sitting around in your dark dorm room, missing classes to play on your X-Box and eating Cheetos that your friends were outside, in the real world, making their own opportunities! Get off your lard ass, take a shower, put on some real clothes and step into the light! Honestly, you're never really going to amount to anything, but at least if you try you'll have a real reason to feel sorry for yourself and maybe someone else will pity you too and share some of their wealth and good fortune.

AQUARIUS: Do you ever get the feeling that everyone's watching you? That's probably because they are, but don't flatter yourself, it's definitely not because you're good looking. I hate to break it to you Aquarius but everyone's making fun of you. The problem is you're just so strange. I'm going to give you some advice, just because I feel so badly for you.
1) Don't repeat the same sentences over and over again, if people didn't hear you the first time it's because they were blocking you out.
2) Complete strangers do not care about your personal life and hate your whining.
3) You're parents don't love you, that's why they've changed the locks.

Arts & Entertainment

'Shaun of the Dead' rises above the rest

By Bob McDonald
Associate Editor

Shaun of the Dead is a delightful zombie romp that is destined to be a cult classic. Defying traditional expectations, this movie presents a well-crafted story, with believable characters and performances and a series of vicious attacks on standard zombie movie clichés that combine to create a smart and fun movie going experience.

Shaun (Simon Pegg) is having a tough time moving his life forward. He works in a menial job, and is constantly defending his slacker roommate Ed (Nick Frost) from his other, more on-track roommate, his stepfather hates him, and his girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield), who has become tired of spending every night in the same pub dumped him.

After a heavy night of drinking, Shaun is determined to get his life back on track. Unfortunately for him, while he was preoccupied with his lot in life, he failed to notice the beginnings of a zombie invasion that has been progressively taking over London. Finally given proper motivation to take a stand, Shaun and Ed devise a plan to save Liz and Shaun's mother and then take refuge in their favorite pub until the invasion blows over.

One of the best features of this movie is that it is not necessarily a zombie movie. Zombie movies typically feature the zombies as the prominent force in the movie. The result is a suspenseful film, but often zombie movies are derided as having all gore and no heart. Specifically, characters in such movies are often merely one-dimensional stereotypes meant to serve as fodder for the undead.

Shaun of the Dead, however, scraps that plan. While astute observers will be able to see and hear all of the tell tale signs of trouble, the film itself does not focus on them. The pre-credits sequence could have been taken out of any romantic comedy, with absolutely no references to anything being out of the ordinary. Even as all the signs point towards trouble, the film focuses on Shaun and his problems. As a result, he is a stronger character. Other performances in the film are also outstanding especially Nick Frost's Ed who is delightful to watch.

One can also tell that solid writing went into the film. The story, as farcical as it gets, makes sense. The tradition of social commentary in zombie films continues, but in a more subdued sense (some will notice the fact that the film's slackers, who do not watch the news, are unaware of important events happening around them as an example of this). Furthermore, the dialogue thankfully excludes all of the cliché action lines that haunt so many other films in the genre.

Most importantly to fans of the genre, the film takes zombie movies to task in a hilarious way. Fans of the zombie genre will notice that the film breaks almost every rule established by films like George Romero's Dead trilogy. One interesting bit features an exchange between Ed and Shaun about whether or not they should refer to the creatures as zombies, an obscure reference to the fact that many zombie movies never feature the word on screen.

The film is full of references to many zombie movies, but thankfully, the film does not result in spoofing (recreating scenes from previous films in a ridiculous way). Instead the references are masked so that different people will understand differing amounts of reference depending on his or her familiarity with the genre.

Those who are not well versed in the genre can rest assured that there are plenty of non-zombie jokes and a fairly low level of gore (spare one particularly gruesome death towards the end of the film) to keep them entertained. Shaun of the Dead is easily one of the year's funniest films and will no doubt become a cult classic with slackers and zombie fans alike in the years to come.

-File Photo
Simon Pegg (center) stars in the zombie comedy 'Shaun of the Dead'

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Singer and reality T.V. star Jessica Simpson performed on the Comcast stage at the Big Eon Sunday, September 3, 2004. Fans began lining up outside the stage at 3:00p.m. for the 7:00p.m. show. Simpson's concert brought thousands of fans to the Exposition raising that Sunday's Big E attendance to a record 122,697.

McGraw serves up a highly thought provoking album to hungry listeners

By Dan Cooper
Voice Reporter

Tim McGraw lost his father, former Major League Baseball pitcher Tug McGraw, in January of 2004. The emotions he felt from that loss are present in his latest album, "Live Like You Were Dying," released August 24. The album is a highly thought-provoking and sometimes humorous look at life in the past, present, and future. Even though McGraw doesn't write any of his own material, his song selection is top notch and often reflective of his own life.

This is the second consecutive album McGraw recorded with his road band, the Dancehall Doctors. The result is a raw, more natural sounding album. McGraw and Company start the album off with a bang with the rollicking "How Bad Do You Want It," a song reminding people just how far someone himself, has to go to chase their dreams and questioning just how important the dream is. McGraw follows up with the sentimental "My Old Friend," about a reunion between old buddies. This is a song anyone who has ever parted ways with a close friend can relate to and it reminds them that they very well could meet again in the near future.

McGraw's most personal track on the album is also the fastest rising single of his entire carcer, the emotionally charged title track. McGraw instantly recorded this song following his father's death and automatically proclaimed it the first single. His grief and emotion are felt through every note as he reminds us that life is short and we should live it to the fullest. "Live Like You Were Dying" may very well be one of the best songs McGraw has ever recorded and his father's memory is felt in every note.

"Drugs or Jesus" is a deep, thoughtful song about the choices people often make in life. This song features a great piano introduction and a superbly done chorus. "Back When" is by far the most nostalgic number on this album, reminding people of a time when things had a different meaning than they do today, such as a hoe, Coke, and a screw.

McGraw does lighten up the tone of the album with two very funny selections, "Everybody Hates Me" and "Do You Want Fries With That."

"Everybody Hates Me" is a song about climbing the corporate ladder and everybody hates you being the top of the heap until they get there themselves. It's a hilarious look at life in the business world. "Do You Want Fries With That" may sound cheesy at first, but it is one of the funniest songs ever. It tells of the tale of a man working in a fast food drive-up window and meeting the guy who took over his life after his wife kicked him out. The results are not pretty and you can almost hear McGraw laughing as he sings the lyrics.

"Kill Myself" may be the most controversial and most poignant song on the entire collection. It may at first appear to be about a suicidal man, but a deeper look tells of a man really killing the devil in him. It may be the most emotionally messaged song about changing one's life for the good of the people they love. This is a powerful and tear-jerking song to hear.

The loss of Tim McGraw's father can be heard throughout this superb collection of what could be considered McGraw's own life story through music. Though he's far away from the honky-tonk country he started his career with, it really is all about the music. This is about as good as music can get. Tim McGraw has delivered another successful album that is well worth a listen for fans.

R.A.D. program a striking success; literally

BY EMILY RANSON
A&E EDITOR

It has been awhile since the last RAD article, not to fear, all the RAD students not only survived the third and fourth training sessions but also completed the simulation. The third session proved to be the most intense, and things are only getting started. There were then only two classes left and it was getting harder.

Class on Tuesday, October 5 was geared to situations when it might seem like there is no way out. When we first started talking and discussing circumstances where most of our techniques would not work I, like most of the class, was thinking, "Ok, what would we do now?" I am not typically a pessimistic person but some situations did seem like the victim would be out of luck.

They showed us and after practice I felt prepared for anything. Again, I am still hoping nobody ever tests out my skills but I know what to do, if they were to.

The end of class was very serious. We were instructed on the logistics of the simulation evening and had a chance to ask questions. Jes Rich made the point last class and it stuck with me: this is only 15 hours that may prove helpful for the rest of our lives.

I found it mentally exhausting as well because ever since the beginning I have been realizing how many little things I never noticed until now. If RAD was what it took for me to realize it, then that's enough benefit for me. It does make me more aware of dangerous situations. A lot of the class is glad to be taking it but there are mixed feelings about the final simulation.

The simulation was Thursday October 7 and tensions were running high. I think the main reason we get nervous is because it was different. There was not a calm person in the group. Upon entering the building, five of us saw one of the aggressors walking in. He was about 10 feet tall and must have weighed about 400 pounds.

So maybe he was a bit smaller, but not much! He was one of three aggressors. Two came from UMass from their RAD program; one was an officer from Palmer, and our own RAD instructor Officer Hastings.

The group stretched and decided on an order for the simulations. There were three and an optional fourth. Each person had to complete each simulation before moving on to the next. All the rules of the safety monitor were explained and previous RAD student came to help suit up our class.

Then the aggressors entered the room in their safety equipment. Dun, dun dunnn. They looked like Martians or action figures because they were COVERED from head to toe in padding.

Each simulation was explained and then they flowed back to back. The general consensus was that it did not seem like any of the techniques they taught us were used. It seemed like we were just flailing about rather than using the procedures. Luckily they videotaped everything for us.

It was interesting to see us in action after everything was finished. Several of us were emotional immediately after each simulation. Jes Rich was right there to check in and work through any issues we developed.

I opted to do the fourth simulation. I surprised me, and I am very glad I did it. I have never felt more confident than I did after completing the last simulation. The night included a series of adrenaline rushes. After it was over, the aggressors took a moment to praise the group, as did the two WSC RAD instructors.

The RAD participants talked about their favorite parts of the whole program, their least favorite parts, and what was most memorable about the simulation evening.

My favorite part had to be sharing the experience with such an amazing group of WSC women. They surprised me, inspired me, and encouraged me throughout the whole thing. We shared stories, moments, and a very unique experience.

After sitting in class and meetings all day three hours of time for me is greatly appreciated. I whole-heartedly endorse this program and encourage EVERY woman on campus to take advantage of RAD on campus. WSC is lucky to offer this to women on campus and several RAD participants were wishing the advanced RAD was offered here.

'Grand Avenue' a page-turner

BY KRISTIN ESPOSITO
VOICE REPORTER

Four women seen through a camera. They are laughing at one another, watching their children play and enjoying their lives, as they know it. Little do they know how life can turn quickly and that things are not always what they appear to be.

"Grand Avenue" is a powerful book that takes the reader into the lives of four middle-aged women over twenty years. The "Grand Dames" have lived in Mariemont, an upscale suburb of Cincinnati for over twenty years, each with their own husbands and children.

But how are these women to know that 23 years later they will have suffered through abuse, betrayal, affairs, and murder. Twenty-three years later two of them will be dead. Fielding takes the reader into a world of four women: Susan, Vicki, Barbara and Chris, and tells the tale of their lives and how they intertwine with one another. Barbara who suffers with a husband that she knows is unfaithful.

Vicki, the tough, self-centered lawyer, Chris whose husband gets his kicks from beating her up every night, and Susan a down to earth woman who has her own troubles in her family.

This book is a fast read and a page-turner. The end of each chapter leaves the reader in shock and it is not hard to convince yourself to keep on reading. The reason I personally enjoyed this book so much is that it incorporated many different issues and subjects. There is love, friendship, betrayal, heartbreak, mystery and murder.

Readers will end up falling in love with the characters and at the same time will have a hard time relating to their situations. Author Joy Fielding has many other books including, "The Deep End," "Missing Pieces" and "Don't Cry yNow." "Grand Avenue" is by far a favorite.

"Grand Avenue" is a page-turner that will have the reader on the edge of their seat the whole time and the end will leave them shocked and begging for more.

Broadway comes to WSC

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

"Broadway Comes to Westfield" was attended well by WSC students on Saturday of Parents Day on October 2, 2004. Broadway Comes to Westfield enticed over 200 audience members into Dever Auditorium. There were 17 songs performed of several different Broadway musicals. They ranged from "The Lion King" to "Wicked" and from "Ragtime" to "RENT".

The company consisted of 18 singers who performed solo, duet, and as a company. Most performed about two songs.

With low lights the company spread across the stage beginning "Nants' Ingoyama" from "The Lion King" where Diana Farrell set an incredible tone for the evening. Eddie Paris followed with another song from "The Lion King" called "Endless Night" from the stage version. He impressed the audience even if some were unfamiliar with the song.

Corey Ducette from the class of 2004 sang "Dancing Through Life" and Heather and Liz Dion sang "What is this Feeling" both from the musical Wicked.

Danny DiCamillo, the manager of the Night Owls a cappella singers, performed "Close Every Door." It wowed the audience and changed the mood in Dever.

Three songs followed from "In the Woods" one by the whole company, a duet by John Schell and Heather Dion, and the last by Ricky Magner.

Lindsay Holland delightfully performed "My New Philosophy" from "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" with Ricky Magner.

Keeping the bar high, Ricky Magner and Corey Ducette astounded the audience with "I'll Cover You" from "RENT." They had very compatible voices to sing this selection.

The audience has a lot to look forward to with Guys and Dolls being performed at WSC because John Schell, Peter Rizzo, and Mike Duffy gave a taste of their talents during "Fugue for Tin Homs" in Broadway Comes to Westfield.

With only two weeks to prepare with about four rehearsals, Director Tom Amos said, "I think it went really well. It's difficult to organize something like that with people who are all so busy. But I think everyone who performed did an amazing job."

Amos thanked Diana Farrell and Karen Ducharme for all their help in organizing the event.

Seen On The Green

Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

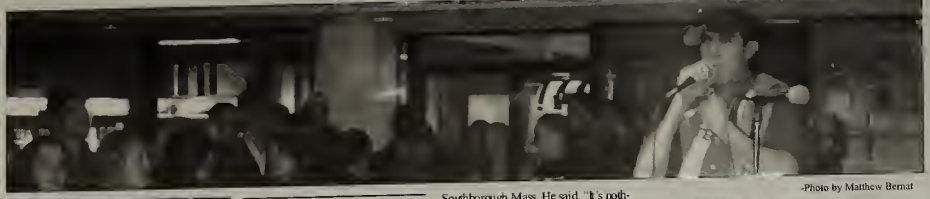
Freshmen Melissa Camidge races her younger brother Kevin in the 'Boot Camp' blow-up obstacle course during family weekend on Saturday October 2. Kevin won the race.

Health Capsule

Mark your calendars: Influenza and Menomune Maxim Health Vaccine Clinic on October 28 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. The cost for Influenza Vaccine to prevent the flu will be $20 and the cost for Menomune Vaccine to prevent certain bacterial types of meningitis will be $90. People allergic to eggs should not get Influenza Vaccine. If you've received Menomune, protection from this vaccine should last three to five years.

November 9, come and listen to Mike Domitrz' presentation "Can I Kiss You?" in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 8 p.m. Mike is a well known speaker on college campuses. His program is dynamic, interactive and humorous while it addresses serious issues of dating, communication, respect and sexual assault awareness. See his website at www.canikissyou.com. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has also sponsored grant money toward this event.

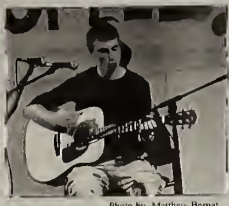
Coffehouse showcases freestyle for first time



-Photo by Matthew Bernat

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Matt Page gets carried away by the music



-Photo by Matthew Bernat

BY MATTHEW BERNAT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Ely main lounge looked more like a scene from "8 Mile" for the half hour that Alex Napoleon and others took to the mic to perform free style rap during the coffeehouse on October 6.

Westfield State College coffeehouses of the past have traditionally only drawn performers who play guitar solo or with bands.

Napoleon, a criminal justice major, called on the audience to form a semi-circle around the stage before he performed his original material. Halfway through his set Napoleon called up anyone who was willing to try some freestyle.

Kyle "Red" Benson, 21, of Windsor Conn. and D.N.A. also of Conn. answered Napoleon's call and stepped up to pass the mic between them. Benson has been rapping, "For two years off and on. I spin whenever I can, wherever there's a large crowd of people."

Cheering and dancing the crowd loved the freestyle sessions as much as Napoleon's written raps. At one point 6 students were on stage free styling.

Immediately after his set Napoleon had a large portion of the crowd stay to congratulate him. Napoleon said he first started rapping this past summer in his hometown of Southborough Mass. He said, "It's nothing serious, any opportunity I get (I'll rap)."

Sophomore Matt Page was the first performer of the evening. He did solo acoustic covers of Elvis', 'That's Alright Mama', 'Blackbird' by the Beatles and closed with 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'.

Page said he has been playing for almost 5 years. "I like the classic rock but right now I'm into classical music. I'm learning a lot from it right now," he said referring to his playing style. Page said he wants to play every coffeehouse this year.

Following Page was Mike Duffy, another solo act. Duffy is a freshman and this is his first coffeehouse. He began with 'Hotel California' by the Eagles and asked the audience for requests.

Duffy also played 'Lying in our Graves' by the Dave Matthews Band, 'Your Song' by Elton John and two Simon and Garfunkel songs, 'Red Rubber Ball' and 'The Sound of Silence'.

Duffy heard about the coffeehouse from Page.

The band "Scenic Route" followed Duffy. The band is Tim Messier, Mark Roy and Josh Messier, Tim's younger brother, all of Palmer Mass. They played 'Echo off the Wall' and 'I Wander' both originals written by the band.

Alex Napoleon raps to the crowd about 'Small town living'

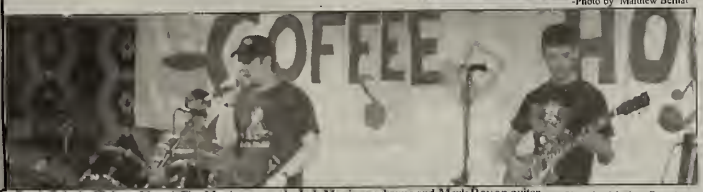
-Photo by Matthew Bernat

DNA and Red impress with their freestyling

Mike Duffy plays at his first coffehouse

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Tune all your on campus radios to WSKB 89.5 for WSC's own radio DJs and tunes



'Scenic Drive' of Palmer Mass. is Tim Messier on vocals, Josh Messier on drums and Mark Roy on guitar -Photo by Matthew Bernat

'Ladder 49' a four-alarm flick

BY JILL MONSON
VOICE REPORTER

Movie Tip One: You're not a freak if you go alone! Don't ever be too shy to go to the movies by yourself. On Sunday I had plans to go with my mom and last minute she couldn't go. I had my heart set on the movie (and a promise to my
editor) so I went alone. And I know it may shock you – but no one pointed and snickered like you (and I) might imagine.

Movie Tip Two: Cheap seat! Okay, I should say cheaper… a movie is never cheap these days. But go to a matinee and you'll only pay $6.25 (compared to regular $9.25). Then with your left over three bucks you can get half a bag of popcorn.

Okay, now the movie…"Ladder 49."

It's about Baltimore firefighters (which I know is a shock with the really creative title) and stars John Travolta as Chief Mike Kennedy and the awkwardly cute Joaquin Phoenix as Jack Morrison. It was directed by Jay Russell and written by Lewis Colick (he got screenplay credit for 2001's "Domestic Disturbance" which also starred Travolta).

The movie starts with a HUGE warehouse fire and the crew working to put it out. A bit of trivia about the filming of this scene according to www.imdb.com, it caused something of a panic in Baltimore. The fire was visible from I-95 and the Baltimore Beltway, so Good Samaritans kept calling the fire department to report it. So many people called that the fire department ended up calling radio stations to confess that the scene was being filmed and to request that people stop tying up the emergency lines.

Back to the big screen… Jack is part of the search and rescue crew who heads into the warehouse blaze and to the twelfth floor to look for survivors. They find a few and he heads back for another when the floor collapses and he ends up trapped. That begins a series of flashbacks.

These flashbacks serve as an opportunity for us to get to know Jack and his brothers. I use this word to describe the team of firefighters as I've heard it used before, but once you see the movie it will mean even more. The audience grows with Jack seeing him fight his first fire, get married, and have children.

We also see the firefighters struggle of the fire and the family. Jack's son says, "I don't want you getting hurt anymore dad."

I think people go into this movie ready for the emotion and you certainly aren't disappointed. You get both happy and sad moments. You'll laugh when they play practical jokes on each other like putting a goose in Jack's locker or when they pick up women in the market. And you'll well up when they lose one of their own.

This scene was an opportunity for Travolta to shine though. He comes in and tells his men, "We take it, learn from it. We stick together and get back on the goddamn truck. That's how we honor –?– " (I don't want to spoil it for you).

John Travolta was on a talk show this morning and said that his hope is that this movie honors firefighters everywhere and I think it does a marvelous job towards that goal. So how would I rate it… this one is definitely a four – boxes of Kleenex, of course!.

Westfield State senior quarterback Jon Meczywor was leading the New England Football Conference in passing before an injury in the Mass Maritime game sidelined him indefinitely. *Photo by Mickey Curtis*

Owls Sink Mass Maritime, 38-7

WESTFIELD – Senior quarterback Jon Meczywor (Lanesoboro, Mass.) completed 16 of 28 passes for 224 yards and two touchdowns as Westfield State cruised to a 38-7 New England Football Conference victory over Mass. Maritime Academy on Oct. 9.

Westfield improved to 3-2 overall and 2-1 in the NEFC Began Division. Mass. Maritime is 1-4 and 1-2.

Meczywor played approximately two and a half quarters as the Owls jumped to a 28-0 halftime lead. The 5-5, 225-pound quarterback threw touchdown passes of 10 yards to senior Tim Tontonoz (Chicopee) and seven yards to senior David Trueira (Wilmington).

Trueira and junior B.J. Helleran (Quincy) are ranked 1-2 in the NEFC in pass receptions and they had big games once again. Trueira caught eight passes for 116 yards and Holleran had seven catches for 1100 yards.

The Owls scored on their first possession, a nine-play, 80-yard drive capped by senior Don Jones' (Springfield) three-yard touchdown run. Freshman reserve running back Dan Stern (Mt. Vernon, ME) scored on a nice 34-yard run with 5:11 left in the first half.

The Owls took a 31-0 lead late in the third quarter on a 32-yard field goal by freshman kicker Garrett Davis (Belchertown). Third-string freshman quarterback Brett LeClerc (Raynham) completed Westfield's scoring with a 21-yard touchdown scamper early in the fourth quarter. Mass Maritime's only score came on a 51-yard interception return for a touchdown by senior linebacker Rich Barrueca (Walpole) late in the third quarter.

The Owls, who lead the NEFC in total defense, limited Mass. Maritime to eight first downs and 107 yards in total offense. Westfield intercepted five passes, including two each by junior Jay Abair (Ludlow) and junior Craig Skribiski (Whately). Also intercepting a pass was sophomore Tyler Charette.

Fall Sports Roundup

Field Hockey

So. Maine 2 – Westfield 0

GORHAM, Maine — The University of Southern Maine Huskies scored a pair of second half goals en route to a 2-0 upset victory over the Westfield State College Owls in a Little East Conference game at Hodgdon Field.

The win was the second of the season for the Huskies and their first in conference play. USM is now 2-12 overall and 1-5 in the Little East. Westfield State, which came into the game riding a four-game winning streak, slipped to 8-2 overall and 4-1 in the conference.

After the scoreless first half, the Huskies got on the scoreboard four minutes into the second half by converting on a penalty corner. Sophomore Justene Lamerd (Cherry Hills, N.J./Kimball Union Academy) scored her second goal of the season when she her shot from the left side eluded Westfield State senior goalie Kendra Newell (Groveland, Mass.).

The Huskies came close to doubling their lead 10 minutes later, but a fine defensive save effort by WSC senior back Sadie Driscoll (Brewster, Mass./Nauset Regional HS) kept the ball out of the net.

Sophomore Denise Minigell (Auburn, Maine/Edward Little HS) finally gave USM some breathing room with 18:07 to play as she tipped home a hard drive taken from the top of the circle by junior Sarah Metivier (Old Town, Maine/Old Town HS). The goal was the second of the season for Minigell.

Men's Soccer

Westfield 1 – Bridgewater 1

WESTFIELD – Westfield State and Bridgewater State played to a 1-1 tie in Mass. State Conference men's soccer action Oct. 11.

Both teams have identical overall (5-4-2) and conference (1-1-1) records.

The Nalewanski brothers of Easthampton teamed up to give Westfield a 1-0 lead in the 18th minute. Sophomore Dave – the Owls' leading goal scorer – took a pass from his younger brother Drew and deposited a shot into the left corner.

Bridgewater tied the score on a well executed goal in the 69th minute. Junior forward Mike Quinn (Weymouth) crossed a pass from the far left endline that senior Topher Paone (South Easton) headed into the net inside the right post.

Women's Soccer

Westfield 1 - Bridgewater 1

BRIDGEWATER - Senior defender Jenn Hendry (Framingham, MA) scored the game-tying goal with just over seven minutes remaining in regulation to help Westfield State College earn a tie with the host Bears of Bridgewater State in MASCAC women's soccer action Oct. 11

With the tie, the Bears are now 4-3-2 on the season and 1-1-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is 4-6-1 overall and 0-2-1 in conference play.

Playing with the wind in the first half, Bridgewater took the early 1-0 lead as freshman defender Nicole Sidor (Whitman, MA) potted her first career goal on a direct kick from about 25 yards out.

The Bears clung to the one goal lead until Hendry provided the heroics for the Owls as she also converted on a direct kick with the wind at her back to send the game into overtime. Both teams had glorious chances in the overtimes but could not come up with the golden goal.

Volleyball

Amherst 3 - Westfield State 0

WESTFIELD - Westfield State lost to a strong Amherst squad on Oct. 12. The game scores were 30-15, 30-8, 30-18.

Amy Svatik had 14 digs and Krista Grifoni recorded 11 assists. Morgan Hosking contributed five kills, 11 digs and one block, and Kate Spriegel had four blocks and three kills.

Grifoni Named Player of Week

Westfield State College freshman setter Krista Grifoni of Peabody was named the Mass. State Conference volleyball Player of the Week for Oct. 11, 2004.

Grifoni posted impressive statistics in a 3-1 victory over conference foe Mass Maritime Academy. She helped the Owls climb to 3-0 in the conference by registering 42 assists, 15 digs, 4 aces, and a kill. Grifoni also amassed 12 assists, eight digs, and a kill in a 3-0 victory over Bay Path.

Four other Westfield State athletes were named to weekly honor rolls.

Sophomore forward Kate McMillan of Belchertown recorded three goals in women's soccer victories over Anna Maria and Albertus Magnus. Sophomore midfielder Kate Anderson of Georgetown had a goal and an assist in the field hockey team's big 2-0 victory at Worcester State.

Selected to the New England Football Conference honor roll were senior wide receiver David Trueira (Wilmington) and junior defensive back Craig Skribiski (Whatley/Frontier Regional High School).

Krista Grifoni

Trueira – who leads the 14-team conference in receiving – had eight catches for 116 yards and a touchdown in a 38-7 victory over Mass. Maritime. Skribiski had five solo tackles, a pass breakup and two interceptions.

Big Hit At The Big E

The Westfield State College competition cheering squad did not let the wet weather dampen its spirits during Westfield Day held at the Big E on Sept. 30. The cheering squad performs annually at the Big E and is always a big hit with fairgoers. *Photo by Mickey Curtis*

Cross Country Teams Sixth In Earley Invite

WESTFIELD – The Westfield State men's and women's cross country teams both placed sixth in the ninth annual James Earley Invitational held Oct. 9 at Stanley Park.

In the 25-team men's meet, Westfield finished behind first-place Coast Guard, Bowdoin, Vassar, WPI, and Roger Williams.

Senior Geoff Churchill was Westfield's top finisher, placing 13th with a time of 27:21.6 over the five-mile layout. Freshman Andy Messer, a Westfield High graduate, placed 31st in 28:13.9. Senior Matt Frederick was 45th (28:54) and freshman John Messer, also a Westfield High graduate, was 46th (28:55).

Andrew Coombs of Bowdoin had the winning time of 26:00.80.

In the women's meet, Westfield finished behind first-place Bowdoin, Coast Guard, NYU, Vassar, and Salve Regina.

Westfield junior Heather Wenninger of Chicopee finished sixth in 19:44.7. The individual winner was Bowdoin's Audra Caler in 19:10.4.

Other top finishers for Westfield were: Alison Wesolowski (32nd, 20:46), Kim Grant (42nd, 21:06.7), and Marissa Blume (56th, 21:22.1).

IM Department is Now Accepting Rosters For:
5-5 Basketball (M&W)
Co-ed Volleyball
Co-ed Water Polo
Soccer (M&W)
Billiards (M&W)

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals

Have A Ball - Meet New People

Anyone Interested in Intramural Lacrosse (Men or Women)

Please Contact the IM Office in Parenzo Gym (P-169)
(Right Under the BBall Hoop)

This is DEFINITELY HAPPENING - *we will have an IM Lacrosse League.*

If you have any questions please contact: Coach Rich Fului @ Laxgoal28@comcast.net

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Anyone Interested in
Extreme Dodgeball
(Men or Women)
Please Contact the IM office.

Dodgeball will be happening in the New Woodward Center.

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

The Banacos Road Race
has been changed to
Sunday Nov. 21 @12pm
due to
NCAA Divison III Field Hockey Championships
to be held at WSC
Saturday Nov 20.

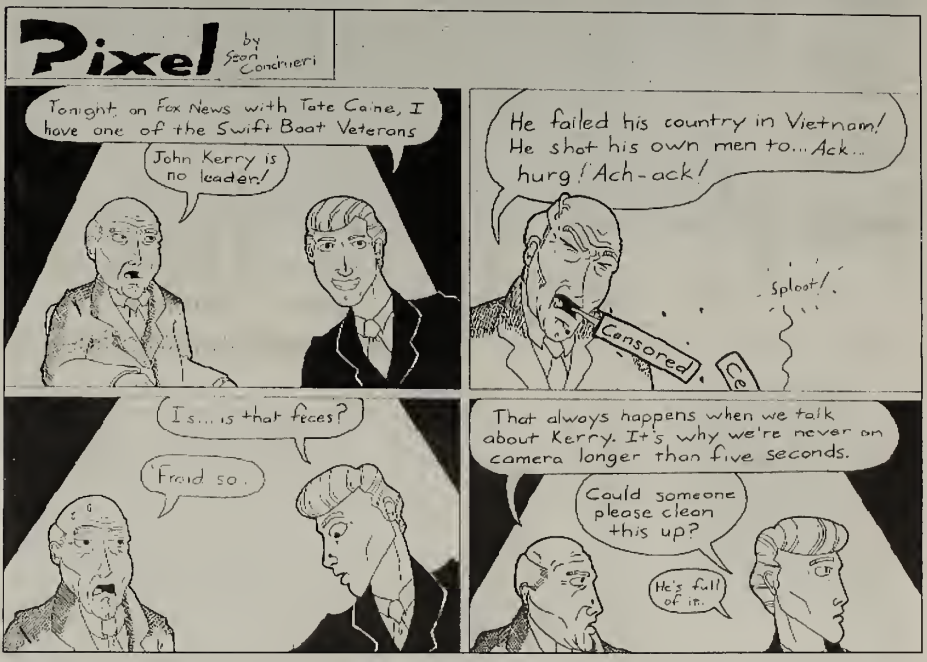
Work Study Positions Still Available in Intramural Athletics

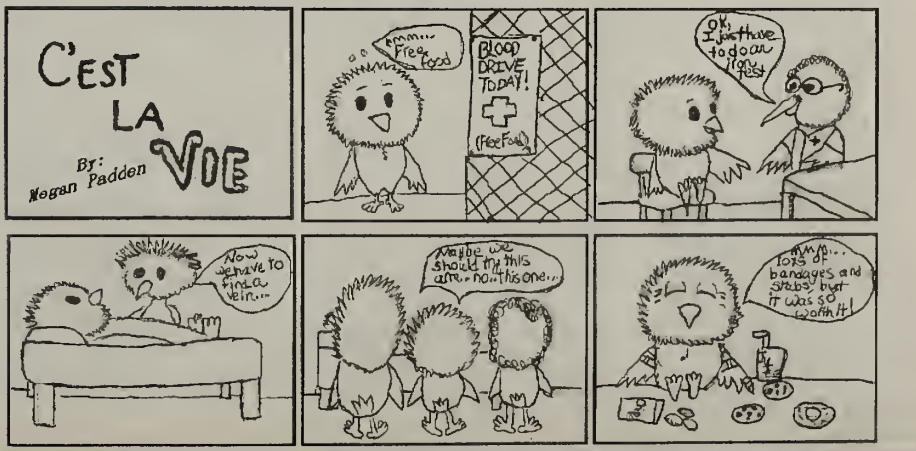
Come to our office in Parenzo Gym (P-169)

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

" I know a girl who spent $100 on the perfect Halloween costume that she wore for three hours. But she can't spend the extra 50 cents to avoid drinking Natty Lite."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:
www.collegehumor.com
You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots* -- Check your local bookstore.





The Back Page

Guest Lecture Series
Concert:
"Musical Forest"

October 18 - 7pm
Dever Auditorium

Commuter Halloween Event
Thursday, October 28
Quixotes Area
11am-1pm

Cookies - Raffle - Fun

WSC Athletics This Week

W. Soccer v. MCLA - Tue - 7p
W. Soccer v. Western Conn - Th - 7
M. Soccer v. Fitchburg - Fri - 7p
Football v. Framingham - Sat - 1p
Field Hockey v. Bridgewater - Sat-6
X-Country - MASCAC Champs - Sat

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Location Key DA - Dever Auditorium EML - Ely Main Lounge INT - Interfaith SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall SLR - Scanlon Living Room TWR - Third World Room WOOD - Woodward Ctr	18 Rec Swim - 11:30am - 1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm - Ely Pool Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm Guest Lecture Concert - see box.	19 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	20 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - 4:30pm - INT C.A.B. - 5p - SGA Office	21 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30pm & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool Masspirg's Water Watch Phonathon - 7-10pm - Ely 130	22 Presidential Inauguration - Campus Green Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Sabbath Service - 7-10pm - INT	23 Homecoming Weekend WSC vs. Framingham - 1pm - Alumni field WSC v. Bridgewater - 6pm - Alumni field
24 Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Govor Recital - 3pm - Dever Auditorium	25 Rec Swim - 11:30am - 1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm - Ely Pool Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm	26 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 - Ely Pool SGA Meeting - 5:30p - Ely Basement	27 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Carl Andrews - Guest Lecture - 5pm - SBH	28 Rec Swim - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm - Ely Pool WSC v. Anna Maria - 7pm - Alumni Field	29 Rec Swim - 11:30-1:20 - Ely Pool Sawyer Flute Recital - 7:30pm - Dever Aud.	30 WSC v. Easter Connecticut - Noon - Alumni Field WSC v. Simmons - 1pm - Ely Pool

Join the Voice Staff!

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248 or email us at:
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X October 18, 2004 Issue VI

New boardroom in 333 forces some staff to move pg. 1

Nestor won't press charges after halftime assault pg. 1

Part 2 of our series on W.S.C's R.A.D. program pg. 11

President Carwein addresses SGA pg. 3

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State

Volume X | October 25, 2004 | Issue VII

Sox take the series and cops take some students

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

The Boston Red Sox defeated the New York Yankees Wednesday night, claiming their spot as the American League Champions for the 2004 World Series.

The final game of the ALCS ended at approximately midnight. The Red Sox won 10-3, taking the fourth win in a best of seven series after losing the first three games.

Hundreds of Westfield State College students flocked to the courtyard of Dickinson Hall immediately following the game.

At 12:30 a.m. the student mob made their way to the campus green. A line of policemen in riot gear, armed with crowd control weaponry and one K-9 unit, threatened to utilize tear gas on the crowd while securing the tents for Friday's inauguration of President Carwein.

Fireworks were shot out from the crowd. The first few hit the dining commons, two burnt out in the sky, and one came close to hitting a couple students.

Rolls of toilet paper were thrown, and some were used to start numerous small fires. Other students were seen urinating in the middle of the crowd.

At 12:45 a.m. a WSC police cruiser joined the policeman, and minutes later the students were warned over a bullhorn to disperse peacefully.

"Go back to your residence halls and the apartments. Any students that remain will be subject to arrest," said Dr. Arthur Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs. "This is your last warning."

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Police handcuff one person on the hood of a cruiser following the Red Sox game 7 win

The crowd responded to the announcement with a series of "a**hole" chants directed toward Jackson.

By 12:55 a.m. the line of policemen organized and began to push their way into the student crowd. Police made random arrests along the way for what one anonymous WSC student claimed "incitement to riot."

The detainees were held inside of a Public Safety shuttle. Earlier in the evening, Public Safety stopped the campus-wide shuttle service for fear of student riots. During last year's riots, a campus-owned vehicle was flipped over.

The chants increased as the policemen pushed further along. Some students screamed "Bacon, Bacon" as the police proceeded to make arrests. One student started screaming something about Rodney King, and several officers took him down.

At 1:15 a.m. the officers made their final push and demanded students to go back to their residence halls once again. By two o'clock, only a few stragglers remained.

Red Sox fever grips WSC

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

The best baseball tales begin with "two outs, bottom of the ninth." Perhaps the best concerns both the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets in Game Six of the 1986 World Series.

Boston was one out away from winning their first series since 1918. They were up by two runs with two outs and nobody on base in the last of the tenth. The Red Sox gave up three consecutive singles to make it 5-4, and minutes later a wild pitch scored the tying run.

Next comes the moment in Red Sox history that no fan can forget.

Mookie Wilson hit a routine groundball to first base. The ball went under Bill Buckner's glove and into right field. The winning run crossed the plate. The Mets won.

"I can't remember the last time I missed a ball like that," Buckner said. "But I'll remember this one."

Buckner was run out of Boston due to the number of death threats to his family. He now lives in an undisclosed location in Idaho.

The Red Sox have millions of fans. Some love them no matter whether they win or lose, and others only love them when they win – a phrase coined as "fair-weather fans."

Westfield State College is made up of all types of fans. Even Yankees fans. Together

Sox-Page 2

Union at odds with Carwein

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College President Vicky Carwein says she would be breaking the law if she attempts to remove from the proposed contract for faculty and librarians language that the Union deems offensive.

Carwein, with assistance from Barry Maloney, the Vice President of Advancement and College Relations, said that when the Council of Presidents meet President Carwein is only able to bring forth the concerns of her Union chapter.

This presents a roadblock to faculty participation in the Presidents Inauguration. The Union is promising not to attend President Carwein's inauguration unless she shows steps towards removing the objectionable language from the contract.

"The loser will be the College," said Carwein about the threat of faculty abstention from the event. "It's not about me. It's a

Carwein-Page 3

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

Outside room A 39, in Davis Hall, a guy's voice calls out. It's just some guy; some random guy calling because there is a girl walking past his room.

That is until the thick, husky voice calls out again.

"What, you don't know who this is?"

It's a familiar guy with a round face and the short beginnings of an afro sitting at his desk typing online. Faint sideburns frame the sides of his cheeks, it's Max, a DJ from the college station.

Could this room, just a seemingly ordinary room, be the actual room where a Davis Hall boy had hanged himself years before?

"Oh, this is the room," he enthusiastically assures.

According to campus legend, a boy once hung himself in Davis Hall, though where in the building is not widely known. His room is no longer used, shut up, possibly now a storage closet. Or maybe it has never since been opened.

A shoe rack on Max's wall is full of sneakers, a baseball cap collection is lined up on the self of the opposite desk. Vinyl copies of hip hop records stand behind the caps on the shelf, leaning against the wall. The latest "Ludacris" video is playing on the TV next to Max's desk.

photo by- Matthew Bernat

Davis Hall, where many an urban legend abound lingers

"Either this room or A35," he said, referring to the storage closet a few doors away, with its gray door right in front of the stairs.

"I went there after Spring Break. The door was open." There is only one bed in the room.

"My roommate left because he was scared." Really?

"Naw, he got 5-5-50 sh*t. But he was kinda scared about it."

Is the story of the Davis Hall Boy just an urban legend, just a story that they tell on campus to scare incoming freshmen?

Supposedly the legend was mentioned on a site online. Max had been there, he says. Do you remember where it was? No, but Max asks a boy across the hallway who might.

Urban-Page 2

Tempers flare after Red Sox win
see the photos

pgs. 15-19

Boobies!
Emily Engel goes on a 'Rantpage'

pg. 8

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Mob pics	Page 15-19

Sox

these fans amass the largest collectivity the college has ever seen. This series their meeting place was Dickinson Hall.

"This school has nothing going on," said freshman Laura Wyse, before she was temporarily detained for exposing her breasts to the mob outside Dickinson Hall. "We got to riot more."

Indecent exposure wasn't the only" activity practiced amongst the mob.

In response to "Jump, Jump, Jump" cheers from the hundreds of students, Dickinson Hall resident Aaron Hartieg jumped out of a second-floor window.

"I don't really like baseball all that much," Hartieg said.

A deafening explosion wracked the surroundings, causing many heads to turn. A bottle rocket was shot from an unknown location, almost injuring many WSC students and visitors.

"Man, that thing almost ripped my face off," said junior Steve Orszulak.

After Tuesday night's game, the mob moved from Dickinson Hall to the center green. Many people wanted to set the tents for Friday's presidential inauguration on fire, but police officers in riot gear were standing there waiting.

After about a half hour, the group dispersed. Many went to bed, while others stayed up late catching up on all the schoolwork they had fallen behind on during the week

"Man, that thing almost ripped my face off."

Steve Orszulak junior

"It is affecting my homework and then my homework isn't getting done," said Nick Murphy, a commuting junior. "I am definitely choosing the Red Sox over any type of school. My 8:15 a.m. class hasn't been seen yet this week."

Westfield State College distributed an official release to students regarding on-campus riots on Oct. 5. It was signed by both Dr. Arthur Jackson, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Colin Dury, Vice President for Student Life.

"It is the responsibility of all students to make sure that their behavior reflects the image of Westfield State as an institution of academic excellence," Jackson and Dury said. "Please keep in mind that any type or level of misbehavior reflects negatively on the College."

Urban

And that is how these things spread. Urban legends. Also known as "friend-of-a-friend" stories, they pass from person to person, the details changing overtime as facts are forgotten, confused, and sometimes filled-in.

The Davis Hall Boy story almost always involves a girl getting a phone call at night when her roommate is away only to find the other end of the phone silent. The girl also always calls public safety, which traces the call to an empty room in Davis, the room of the Davis Hall Boy.

In some versions, the girl is woken up by the call to find a boy sitting in at her roommate's desk. She calls out to him, upset, and tells him to get out, only to get no response. She calls public safety, but by the time they arrive the phantom boy has vanished.

According to one Westfield State student, the urban legend about a girl in Lammers Hall receiving a phantom phone call is true. Except that the hall wasn't Lammers Hall, it was Courtney.

"It could be Lammers but I'm almost positive that it's Courtney. 'Cause I believe Courtney was built in that year or finished. It's said that the room was closed off for four years so that, um, everyone who was there in the school, when it happened, you know?"

So that everyone who was there when it happened could graduate without the room being used until anyone who was there at the time was gone.

Some websites online, like www.urbanlegends.com, are devoted to debunking urban myths. Others, like the one that Max and his hall-mate know about, perpetuate our fascination. Most people know that they can eat their pop-rocks-and-Coke worry-free, but ghost stories are harder to shake-off.

It turns out that the story is well known enough to have ended-up on a website, www.theshadowlands.net.

"He didn't go home for break, and his parents found out by calling the RA's on duty to see what was going on and where he was. Since then weird sightings of this boy have been seen in all in all sorts of rooms throughout the dorm."

"This school is spooky, yo. This school is really, really spooky," says Max.

What is interesting about the website's blurb are the further details that are mentioned, details already mentioned in conversation with Scanlon Hall RA Theresa Goodwin.

According to Goodwin, the Davis Hall Boy hung himself during Easter Break. He told his parents that he was staying with friends and told his friends that he was going home. His roommate painted his closet black, in memorial to his friend

Goodwin adds that this all happened sometime in the 1980s, about 20 years ago.

The timeframe on the website, however, is not so precise. Like any good urban legend, it is just vague enough to make the event feel recent.

"There was said that a kid hung himself over Easter Break a few years back."

The site also dramatizes the fact that because of the suicide, Davis Hall is rumored to be haunted.

"He generally comes out at nighttime, and opens and closes closet doors and the atmosphere in the room changes drastically."

Walking along the corridors with their dingy white walls painted red or hunter green halfway upwards, there are several rooms it could have been. On every floor there are storage closets with forbidden-looking, locked gray doors. There are an especially large number of

Urban-Page 3

From the Editor's Desk

Extra Innings

What started as a Pep Rally for the Red Sox game 7 ALCS win against the hated Yankees, ended as an ugly showdown between students and police in the wee hours of Thursday morning. No cars were flipped this time around, the target this year would have been the white rental tents set up for President Carwein's inauguration on Friday.

Fireworks were launched into the crowd at one point. Only a dangerous fool would commit such an act of stupidity or hiliarity, depending on your sense of humor. Had the fireworks not been set off the police would not have been forced to move the crowd. That's the problem with this situation. The whole event turned into a protest that had nothing to protest against.

Last year the student population was let off with a slap on the wrist, the administration thought this kind of thing was an anamoly, looks like it wasn't. Barring any serious preventive measures Westfield State College will be seeing the same sort of thing come the World Series. Don't be surprised if you end up with a big fat bill in your mailbox in the coming months. This behavior doesn't come cheap.

Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up: **To Shawn Lahan, for making this issue of 'The Voice' possible.**

Thumbs Down:

Sluts.

WHAT THE F---?

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

'The Voice' is having a contest! Do you have any caption ideas for this photo? We want to see them in our office! Drop off all submissions to C-248 in the Ely Campus Center by Wednesday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m. and we'll print the best one in next weeks paper!

Urban

them on the lower floor. It's said that behind one of these doors is a closet that was painted black in memorial to the student. Any of them could be the one. On any floor. But no one is sure which one.

Well, almost no one.

"I'm not sure which room it was and even if I knew I don't think I would tell you. It'd wreak havoc on the students who live there. But Curt Robie would know. He might decide to tell you what room it was"

Kathi Bradford, of Residential Life, might not know where the suicide took place, but she did know the student. She is happy to talk about him, just as RA Theresa Goodwin has suggested. Over the years she has been asked about him many times. She has also told the story several times to incoming RAs, like Goodwin.

"Greg was the director of the Musical Theater Guild," Bradford reveals.

His full name was Greg Toland, and he died two or three weeks before the show was to go on, Easter weekend of 1989.

"It was really traumatic for the staff and the campus because he was really well liked. He was really well known," Bradford says.

Bradford has straight blond hair that falls just below her shoulders. Bangs frame her eyes. She talks about Greg with a vague sense of wonder, the incident having happened so long ago.

Do you know if he had broken-up with a girlfriend around that time?

"I don't know that, because he was just involved with so many people that that may or may not have been the case."

Bradford goes on to say that The Musical Theater Guild (MTG) "had decided to have a musical review different than what they had done for years," and that, although there was a lot of pressure on Toland with the show, there wasn't enough to be a reason to commit suicide.

An article from the Monday, March 6, 1989 issue of "The Westfield State Owl" reveals that the show that Toland had been directing was "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Toland is even quoted in the article.

"Toland, a junior mass communications major, is directing for the first time. 'I've worked with MTG before, producing the last three shows,' said Toland. 'I was also in last semester's show 'Leader of the Pack.'"

To read the words on the page is eerie, knowing that Toland would not be there to see his first show open.

Bradford goes on to describe Greg Toland as "intense, passionate, a group motivator."

The other boy Bradford doesn't know much about.

Wait, the other boy?

That's right. Bradford mentions early in the conversation that there was also a suicide in October 1988 of a boy in Davis (at the time it was an all-male dorm) but that she was in Sacramento at the time that it happened. The Monday October 24, 1988 issue of "The Westfield State Owl" confirms it. "A Westfield State College Student died Oct. 18 [as] a result of an apparent suicide. Steven Crossland, a junior business major from Boxborough, was found dead in his room last Tuesday night."

Also included in the article is a statement made by then-Westfield State College President, Randolph Bromery.

"I feel sure that I can speak on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff here at Westfield when I offer our prayers and sympathy for the young man, his family, and friends."

No details of the suicide are reported in the article. However, in relation to such an emotional event, a lack of recorded details is not surprising or uncommon.

> **"That's what happens with urban legends. People are going to fill in the blanks...their imaginations run wild."**
>
> **Paul Scannell**
> **Chief of Public Safety**

In fact, according to Officer Scannell of Public Safety, "Any police calls or police reports are confidential."

This is why, at first, Officer Scannell is difficult to get any information out of in relation to the supposed call made from Lammers Hall.

Officer Kulis is said to have been at the college for several years. Would he possibly know anything about such a call being made?

"He's not allowed to go out and discuss what goes on," Scannell says. He is professional, asserting that any details of either suicide are off-limits because there are victims' families to think about.

When Officer Scannell is informed of the urban legend, he suddenly opens up. Not about the story of the mysterious phone call to Lammers Hall, but about urban legends themselves.

While Officer Scannell acknowledges that he is not an expert, he does believe that urban legends stem from "people's fears" and "lack of knowledge" concerning an event. People will know some information about an event, but then untruths start to mingle with fact.

"But that's what happens with urban legends. People are going to fill in the blanks by themselves and usually they let their imaginations run wild," said Scannell.

The likelihood of finding such a phone call is slim, if not for the fact that public safety gets tens-of-thousands of phone calls per semester, but for the simple fact that no call could have ever been traced back to an empty room in Davis.

Why? Because there is no empty room. So then there was no phantom call to Lammers?

"That's part of the lore," says Curt Robie. Curt Robie is ultimately the greatest source of information. He is also, understandably, a reluctant voice on the other end of the phone.

"The rooms have never been vacated," Robie says. Even after it happened? "That's right."

About whether or not it is true that one of the closets was painted black, Robie says, "I don't remember that."

"One did happen over Easter Break," he says, confirming Kathi Bradford's earlier information.

Some information no one will ever know. Robie says that he "never knew the reason for either one of the two [suicides]," because there were "no notes left or anything." Students and faculty reacted to the incidents very professionally, he said, asserting resignedly that, "Life goes on."

"It's an unfortunate event in the college's history," says Robie, adding that it was part of the reason for the opening of the counseling center on campus.

Even after this truth about the Davis Hall Boy is revealed, that there was not one but two, and that there are no and never were any secret shut-up rooms, the legend will likely keep circulating. It is just what urban legends do.

But as Curt Robie says, "life goes on."

Life goes on.

Voice of the Week

Ken Magarian

Role at WSC: Director of Athletics

Number of years spent working at WSC: Ken has been working at Westfield full time since the mid 1970s. He has worked in Athletics since 1993

Favorite thing about WSC: Interacting with students, but its unfortunate that I have less and less time to do that.

Favorite movie: Animal House

Favorite TV Show: Reruns of Seinfeld

Favorite quote: "If you can't play a sport, be one."

Hobbies: Skiing and Flying (Ken is a student pilot)

Opinion on the Red Sox: "If I were to bleed, I would bleed the Rex Sox."

Compiled by Bridget Gleason

Carwein

celebration of the school, of the alumni, of the students."

Union Chapter President Gerry Tetrault has been leading the charge in Union negotiations. He and Carwein are in constant communications with each other dealing with contract matters.

"Gerry is doing what he thinks is necessary," said President Carwein.

The President said that the language the Union finds offensive is not so offensive in her judgment. That language states the President would be in control of most if not all campus governance and post tenure review in which cannot be grieved.

Carwein, who began at Westfield in June, said she does not take any actions of the Union personal. "I'm too new, they don't know me. I haven't been here long enough to do anything.

"I just hope we stay professional," she added.

While the Union is grieving the language in the proposed contract the president finds money to be the problem.

"The biggest issue is money and the financial standings of the state, there is just no money," said Carwein.

Along with protesting the President's Inauguration Department Chairs were "strongly advised" by the strategic bargaining team and a vote of Union members on campus not to go to a private dinner at the Presidents home two weeks ago, said Tetrault.

"There was a fair amount of people there," said Carwein. About 10 department chairs attended.

"I'm a very social person, that's the way I've always been," said Carwein, who added that there was no discussion of Union talks "whatsoever"

Maloney said that at least one round of negotiations occurred before Carwein was hired.

Carwein said she was aware that the faculty had been working without a contract for some time prior to her accepting the job.

"I knew that there were statewide issues. I knew that for over a decade there have been more budget cuts in Massachusetts than any other state," said Carwein.

"I just hope we all keep our eye on the ball, and that's the education of the students. I just hope we all remain respectful and civil," said Carwein.

photo by- Mike Coughlin

Police officers and students gather on the green for a 'Rollover' demonstration as part of Alchohal Awareness Week.

Voices Overheard

Who would you rather have a beer with, Kerry or Bush?

Kevin Duquette
Class of 2007
Graphic Design

" Bush, 'cause then we could do a line after."

Dave Tebbitts
Class of 2007
History

"George Bush, because he relates to the common man."

Justin Sargent
Class of 2006
Criminal Justice

"Kerry, because I don't like Bush."

Bryan Whelan
Class of 2008
Business & Computers

"Bush, he was more of the party-type in college, doing keg stands and stuff."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

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Website: www.degonscustomts.com

Attention NSE applicants!

Informational meeting schedule for 2005-2006 academic year placements

Dates	
Thursday, October 28	4 pm
Wednesday, November 3	4pm
Thursday, November 11	4pm
Wednesday, November 17	4pm
Wednesday December 1	4pm
Thursday December 2	4pm

All meetings will be held in Ely 233

NSE applications can be found under "important forms" on the Campus Center website: http://www.wsc.ma.edu/campus-center/forms.htm

Visit NSE online at www.nse.org
Application deadline for priority placement is December 16, 2004!
For more information please contact Daryl Hendry, x5444 or Bonnie Clark,

Cancer Patient Dies When Ambulance is Hit By SUV

By Dan Bell
Daryl Khan
Newsday

NEW YORK -- A cancer patient on his way to the hospital was killed early Monday when the ambulance transporting him was hit by an SUV, his family said.

Angel Gonzalez, 56, of Brooklyn, was in his wheelchair when the ambulance was hit and flipped over, police and his family said.

Gonzalez suffered neck and back injuries, his wheelchair landing on Santa Martinez, a family friend riding in the ambulance with him.

Martinez, 60, was in critical condition at Lutheran Medical Center. Gonzalez was taken to the same hospital in critical condition and later died, a relative said.

The driver of the ambulance, a medical technician and the driver of the SUV suffered minor injuries in the accident, police said.

Police said the TransCare ambulance carrying Gonzalez had its light and sirens on when it was struck. It was not immediately clear if the ambulance ran a red light. No summons were issued.

-File Photo

56-year-old cancer patient Angel Gonzalez was riding in an ambulance similar to this when it was struck by an SUV and e was killed.

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Reports of Zarqawi-bin Laden Alliannce Called Credible

By Josh Meyer
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON – U.S. counterterrorism officials on Monday described as "credible" an Internet announcement in which Abu Musab Zarqawi's network in Iraq purportedly "pledged allegiance" to Osama bin Laden.

The CIA, other U.S. intelligence agencies and foreign counterterrorism officials are working to decipher what led to the apparent alliance, according to one U.S. counterterrorism official.

In a message posted Sonday on a Web site linked to Zarqawi's network, someone claiming to be Zarqawi said that Jamaat al Tawhid wal Jihad recently "joined under the banner of al-Qaida"

"We announce that the Tawhid wal Jihad group, its prince and soldiers, have pledged allegiance to the sheik of the mujahedeen Osama bin Laden," the statement said.

"We view it as credible," the U.S. official said, adding that U.S. authorities believe it is evidence that the two groups have entered into a formal and "mutually beneficial" arrangement.

"It's isn't clear what it means, but it certainly isn't a positive development," the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "For Zarqawi, it certainly elevates his standing among his followers and in the jihad at large."

The official and other authorities said they believed the two groups would now seek to combine resources and organizational know-how in an effort to mount a unified effort in Iraq and to galvanize Islamic militants elsewhere against the United States and its allies.

In the Internet posting, the person claiming to be Zarqawi hailed the alliance as "the leading onified brigade of the mujaheedeen" and called on yoong Islamic men to unify onder its umbrella in an effort to purify Iraq and other Islamic lands of non-Islamic Western influences.

Though Zarqawi's organization and al-Qaida have shared similar goals and perhaps even some resources in the past, there has been much disagreement – even among U.S. officials – about whether the two groups have been communicating and coordinating efforts or whether the Jordanian militant was operating independently.

Zarqawi and bin Laden share some similarities. Both are Sunni Muslims who went to Afghanistan to fight the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Zarqawi later returned to Jordan, was jailed by authorities there, then returned to Afghanistan to set up a training camp.

Numerous sources said there was tension between him and bin Laden's group. Later, he made his way to Iraq. Over the last year, Zarqawi has gained worldwide notoriety for a series of kidnappings, many of which led to the beheadings of civilian hostages from the United States and its allies. The U.S. government has placed a $25-million bounty on Zarqawi's head and designated Jamaat al Tawhid wal Jihad a terrorist organization

> "We announce that the Tawhid wal Jihad group, its prince and soldiers, have pledged allegiance to the sheik of the mujahedeen Osama bin Laden"

As his group has become more active, Zarqawi has sought increasingly to differentiate it from al-Qaida. In a lengthy letter that U.S. authorities intercepted last January and later attributed to him, Zarqawi described how Islamic terrorists needed to attack the U.S.-backed Shiite leadership in Iraq – a strategy al-Qaida had rejected.

Al-Qaida leaders also favored mass casualty attacks over Zarqawi's emphasis on smaller operations. They began to resent Zarqawi's efforts to use the Internet and media outlets to promote his organization, according to U.S. and allied intelligence officials

Trent Duffy, a White House spokesman, said the Internet posting supported President Bush's contention that Zarqawi's group has long been in league with al-Qaida, and that their alliance was one reason the administration needed to go to war with Iraq.

U.S. officials said it was also possible, but less likely, that Zarqawi was scrambling for a broader base of support as Iraqi officials demanded that militants in the Sunni stronghold of Fallujah hand him over or face a military offensive.

The author of the Internet statement hinted at possible attacks: "Expecting the month of Ramadan to grant us great victories, it has compelled the Muslims to join together so that they are (a united force) in the eye of the enemies of our religion." Ramadan began Friday.

-File Photo

Osama bin Laden is rumored to have formed an alliance with the Abu Musab Zarqawi network in Iraq.

Americans Abroad Clamor to Have a Say in Election

BY RICHARD BOUDREAUX
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY – Aon Brandt, a 66-year-old fiction writer in Mexico, cast her last presidential ballot for John F. Kennedy in 1960. Roxanne Bachmann, 52, a voice-over artist in Spain, has never voted in her native America. Nor has David Stern, a 38-year-old graphic designer who moved to Israel two decades ago.

But all three U.S. citizens and hundreds of thousands of others who live abroad have demanded absentee ballots for the Nov. 2 presidential election, stirred by a partisan sense of urgency that surpasses anything veteran U.S. political activists in many countries say they have ever witnessed.

Democratic and Republican organizers say the upsurge in registration abroad has burdened an already unwieldy system of absentee voting, causing frustration among the many overseas Americans who have yet to receive ballots from their home states.

"Everything about this election is triple the size of elections before," said Zachary Miller, executive vice chairman of Democrats Abroad France, who has lived in Paris for 14 years. "We usually have registration drives, but this time we have people coming to us – people who have been here 20 or 30 years and never voted before."

Party preferences of Americans abroad are as hard to measure as their precise numbers, estimated to be at least 4 million civilians plus about 550,000 military personnel and dependents. But supporters of President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John F. Kerry, say the divide between the expatriate camps is as razor-sharp as it is at home.

"This is the time to stand up and be counted if there ever was one," Brandt said. Driven by anger over the war in Iraq she and Bachmann intend to mail in Florida ballots for Kerry.

Stern will mark his Ohio ballot for Bush. "It's critical for the whole world," he said. "America is taking the lead in the battle against terrorism, defending the security of the whole world."

Such voters are being courted aggressively. Both parties are using star power to attract voters. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stumped in Israel for the GOP. Diana Kerry, John Kerry's sister, launched Americans Overseas for Kerry early this year and made well-publicized visits to 10 countries.

The Pentagon, which also is working to get out the overseas vote, designated last week as "absentee voting week" at bases abroad. Every military unit was assigned a nonpartisan "voting assistance officer" to help with the process.

Most overseas military personnel are presumed to favor Bush. According to the Pentagon, 60 percent of them cast ballots in the 2000 presidential race, compared with 51.3 percent of U.S. voters at large. Far fewer civilians living overseas – one-fourth or less, according to many estimates – have bothered to vote in the past because of difficulties in obtaining and sending back absentee ballots.

The 2000 election changed that. Bush's official 537-vote margin in Florida drew attention to the thousands of overseas ballots counted in that state after Election Day. Both parties responded by paying more attention this time to voters abroad.

The effort is paying off, judging from evidence in several countries. Susannah Gruskey, a Democratic activist in Mexico since 1988, said she had helped about 1,000 voters register this time, about five times as many as in any previous campaign here.

"Some people are like Rip Van Winkle waking up after 20 years," said Robert Pingeon, chairman of Republicans Abroad Europe.

Americans say the biggest motivation is the intensity of popular feeling in their adopted lands against Bush and his foreign policy. Many are embarrassed or alarmed and fear becoming targets of anti-American attacks, while others admire Bush's resistance to the criticism and feel moved to stand up for him.

> **"Everything about this election is triple the size of elections before. We usually have registration drives, but this time we have people coming to us - people who have been 20 and 30 years and never voted before."**
> **-Zachary Miller**

"While the United States should never make its prime objective to win an international popularity contest, there are real concerns about how we are perceived overseas and the negative effects a go-it-alone strategy has had for our country," said John Kael Weston, 32, a civilian adviser to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq. "Americans like to be liked, and right now we are not – at least Bush is not, and we are paying the price."

The foreign cultures in which they are immersed can exert enormous peer pressure on Americans. "In Spain there's a generalized anti-Bush opinion in the media, so I can't think the same way an American living in the United States would," said Eric Napoli, a 32-year-old lawyer in Madrid. "In the United States you actually find reasonable people who are pro-Bush. Spaniards believe it's unthinkable to be pro-Bush."

"There's a lot of anger directed against America at the moment," said Drake Lawhead, 22, a graduate student in international relations at the London School of Economics. He said he was voting for Bush because "I feel the need to defend America against abuse."

There is little surveying of overseas Americans' voting intentions, but in August, a Zogby poll of Americans who have passports found that they supported Kerry over Bush, 58 percent to 35 percent. Those numbers, analysts said, suggest that a higher voting rate abroad might help the Democratic candidate.

With less than two weeks to go until Election Day, both parties are focused on an unexpected and daunting task – distributing federal write-in ballots to thousands who have not received regular absentee ballots in the mail from county election boards.

Regular absentee ballots have been held up by a series of missteps. At least 18 states failed to mail them out by Sept. 19, a deadline considered necessary to ensure that they could be returned on time. Many ballots went out with insufficient postage.

Joffre de La Fontaine, a 72-year-old Air Force veteran living in Mexico, said his application for an Illinois ballot went unanswered until he called a clerk in Jackson County, the last place he voted. "You've been abroad for 35 years? Then you're no longer an American," he said the clerk told him. La Fontaine protested, was allowed to reapply and finally received his ballot Friday.

For frustrated overseas voters, there is one final option. Bill Gorman, a financial-markets consultant registered in Los Angeles who is working temporarily in Baghdad to help the fledgling Iraq Stock Exchange convert to electronic trading, knows only one way to make sure his vote counts.

"Travelers like me are not well served by the absentee ballot process," he said. "So I intend to fly home in time to vote."

Britney Spears Needs a Break

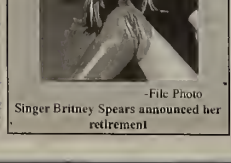
BY RANDY LEWIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Britney Spears has decided to step out of the zone – again. The pop princess is telling fans through her Web site that she's taking a break from performing so she can "enjoy all of the simple things that I missed over the past few years due to working way too much."

Her posting doesn't say how long her hiatus might last, but goes on to say that "Being married is great and I can't wait to start my family!" with dancer Kevin Federline, whom she married last month.

"Going and going and going is all I've ever known since I was 15 years old," her message says. "It's amazing what advisors will push you to do, even if it means taking a naive, young, blonde girl and putting her on the cover of every magazine." Spears recently reached what's been described as an amicable parting from her longtime manager, Larry Rudolph of ReignDeer Entertainment.

A spokeswoman for Spears' record company, Zomba Records, said the label's only comment on her announcement is that her album "Greatest Hits: My Prerogative" will be released Nov. 9 on CD and DVD.



-File Photo
Singer Britney Spears announced her retirement

They Shoot Hippos, Don't They?

BY KIMI YOSHINO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Hippos beware: The Jungle Cruise skippers are packing heat again.

And a caution to humans: Disneyland engineers are devising a safe way to return the stomach-churning spins to the teacups in the Mad Tea Party ride.

Many fans are cheering what appears to be a turnaround on political correctness, after watching the "Happiest Place on Earth" in recent years not just disarm the skippers and de-spin the teacups, but also strip mock frontier rifles from Tom Sawyer Island and stop marauding pirates from chasing frightened maidens in Pirates of the Caribbean.

Disneyland officials describe the changes as a move to recapture some of Walt Disney's original vision by "restoring the magic" to the park as it gears up for its 50th birthday next year.

"I've just been happy as a pig in mud," said Disney watchdog Al Lutz, founder of miceage.com. "I think they went too far in one direction and now they're course-correcting. They've gone back to the way they used to do things."

Not quite. Tom Sawyer Island is still gun-free, and the pirates continue to chase the wenches for their food, not their bodies.

But Disney watchers say the park is making improvements, apparently responding to complaints about altered rides and declining ambience.

On Main Street, generic ford carts are being redesigned to match the architectural style and paint colors of nearby buildings. In New Orleans Square, where employees have been wearing Victorian styles in subdued grays and browns, new outfits will reflect the jazz era in vibrant greens, purples and golds.

"That's what we're known for – the quality, the detail," Disneyland spokesman Bob Tucker said.

Hundreds of letters and calls from park guests come in each week on topics ranging "from the minutiae all the way to the big stuff," he said.

Changes on rides such as the Jungle Cruise and the Mad Tea Party sent fans marching to Disneyland's City Hall in protest. Some would get off the boat and say, 'Hey, what happened to the guns?'" said Sherri Ribble, a second-generation Jungle Cruise skipper.

Since their return, Ribble said, some passengers on the cruise have spontaneously burst out in applause after she fired blanks at the hippopotamuses.

One youngster thanked Ribble for saving her life by fending off the hippos.

The whole experience was so true-to-life for 4-year-old Andrew Hansen, a visitor from Washington state, that he hid behind his mother as he got off the ride.

"It really feels like, for the 50th anniversary, we're bringing the adventure back," said Ribble, who recalls riding the African-themed cruise when she was 8 and "thinking I was a goner for sure."

Her father, Rip Ribble, who was a skipper in the 1960s, said he was happy to see the return to tradition.

"When I was working there, the kids would start holding their ears when you started into hippo territory," he said. "It's a shame that in this day and age because of gang activity and political correctness and animal rights, people took offense to shooting at the hippo. But really, it was all make-believe."

Janet Wasko, a professor of communication studies at the University of Oregon and author of two books on Disney, said the park faces a constant conundrum: Disney officials feel the need to stay competitive and cutting-edge, while fans lament that "it's not the same anymore."

"Disney has changed to try to keep up with things, but in the meantime, one of the things that people want is the same thing," she said.

-Photo Don Kelson - Los Angeles Times

DISNEYLAND OLDWAYS: Randy Grant takes aim at a faux hippo in the Jungle Cruise ride at Disneyland. The gun's return is part of an effort to recapture the park's "magic."

OPINION

Trashing the democrats

"And Justice For All"
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

With every election there is always a chance for something to go wrong. Remember Florida 2000 when thousands of voters were unable to vote because of a "glitch" in the system that identifies felons who lose their right to take part in an election? It seems this year the Republicans have gotten a head start on disenfranchising voters. An investigation by a local television station in Nevada, KLAS, uncovered an organization called "Voters Outreach of America" that has been destroying voter registration forms. However, not all of them are being destroyed; only the ones that are trying to register as Democrat. Nathan Sproul, who is the former Arizona Republican Party and Christian Coalition director, leads the group which is also primarily funded by the Republican National Committee, receiving almost half a million dollars this election cycle. The organization put ads in local newspapers wanting workers to go door-to-door to help register voters. One ads headline read "Canvassing Neighborhoods in Support of the GOP!"

The investigation started when a former employee came forward and claimed to have "personally witnessed company supervisors rip up and trash registration forms signed by Democrats." Eric Russell, who was fired from the company over a pay dispute, retrieved shredded registration forms from the garbage, all which were Democrats, and took them to the Clark County Election Department and found that they had not been filed with the county as required by state law.

Voters Outreach of America also set-up registration booths in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Florida and Oregon where fraud is likely as well. The organization sent out letters to local libraries in Oregon posing as America Votes, a nonpartisan coalition of groups such as MoveOn.org, Sierra Club, and EMILY's list, wanting to setup booths inside of the library and asked librarians to call an 800 number for further details. When one local librarian called, she got the answering machine and discovered that the group was not as non-partisan as it claimed. She quickly contacted the real America Votes and told the organization of the fraud that had taken place. America Votes has decided to take legal action against the group and put out a press release denouncing Voters Outreach's actions. Another worker came forward claiming that she was told only to register Republican voters and to "discard" any others. She was working outside of a convenience store and was given instructions to ask customers who they were planning to vote for in the upcoming presidential election. If the person answered Bush, she was to ask them if they were registered and hand them a registration card. If the person answered Kerry, she was to thank them for their time and only hand them a registration card if they requested one.

When a local news reporter went to get a comment from Voters Outreach, the organization had vacated its rented space and has seemingly disappeared. Nathan Sproul released a comment, however, and has denied all accusations of breaking the law and claims that Russell is simply a disgruntled employee. Since Russell first spoke up, other employees of Voters Outreach have come forward to claim the same suspicious behavior. The unfortunate outcome of this is that the deadline for registration has passed already and now thousands of potential voters who think that they are registered will not be allowed to vote on November 2nd. Sproul has since filed a suit against Russell, claiming "defamation and infliction of emotional distress." Maybe the thousands who will not be able to vote should consider doing the same against Sproul.

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One soldier's experience

"Marty Knows...Maybe"
By Kristina Martinelli
Voice Columnist

For nine months I lived in a tent. It wasn't glamorous in the least bit, but it was my home. I shared my space with four other females and we actually got along most of the time. It was hard to deal sometimes, but the experience I got out of my time in Afghanistan was worth it.

I was assigned to a postal unit and attached to the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum. There were fourteen other soldiers in my unit and we did a full time job. Postal doesn't seem like it is that big of a deal, but to every other soldier and civilian assigned to the base, it is. Everyday, including Sundays, people would stop by the Post Office and ask us if we had any mail for them.

Almost daily we would take all the mail that soldiers were sending home, tag it, bag it, and ship it out. We processed over a million pounds of mail, incoming and outgoing. Some of the best parts of the job were that it kept you busy and you got to meet a good number of people on the base. We were probably the best known unit on the base.

Besides all the work that we did, there was the down time. After getting up around 0400zulu and getting off of work at 1230zulu (average), we had time to ourselves. Some people went to the gym, which was replaced half-way through our tour and would rival some of the best gyms in the states. Others read books.

A lot of time was spent watching what soldiers liked to call "hajji-vision." Hajji-vision was the equivalent of black market movies in the states. While people back home were watching movies a week old in the theater, we were watching the movie on DVD. The hajji who burned the DVD's gave us that "at-home, in-theater" feel. People would stand up and block the screen, there was talking, and the wide-screen got cut to full.

One of the neat things that I got to do was to go on a black-hawk ride. It was about an hour long and we were taken outside the perimeter to see the sands of the Stan. I found it quite breathtaking. The sands were either red-orange or white and the mountains were black. Some of the photos I took were probably some of the most beautiful I will ever take. I also got to see the Taliban training camp. This is the one that everyone saw on CNN right after the attack with the monkey bars. I have a picture of that.

Let's see, what else was there? I got to go to Qatar twice. That was really nice. Qatar is set up as a Rest & Relaxation post for soldiers deployed to the Afghanistan and Iraq theatres. It was really interesting to swap stories with everyone that you met. To be honest, one of the things that most people looked forward to was the drinking. You got to have three beers a night, and you made the most of it. Everyone got the 16oz. cans of the German beer, why waste a beer ticket on 12oz? I even got to ice skate on the bottom level of a mall and I went swimming in the Persian Gulf.

There is a lot of my experience from my deployment that I'm not telling you. Part of that is because I don't want to, but most of that is because this column would take up the entire newspaper, and I'm not kidding. It's really hard to cut nine months down into less than two pages. I will say though, that the experience was certainly a life changing one. I appreciate things a lot more now and I take things more seriously than I did before, at least it seems that way to me. For example, I used to enjoy going out to City Limits on a week night, drinking and dancing. Now, I can't bear to even step foot in the place, it gives me a headache to be in that scene. I'm not saying that it's a bad thing to do; I'm just not into that thing anymore.

I hope that you found some of what I had to say interesting. The experience certainly was.

Corrections:

- In the "Voices Overheard" section of Issue 6, Red Sox player Ellis Burk's name was mispelled.
- On pg. 12 of Issue 6, Matt Page was incorrectly identified as Mike Duffy.
- In "Rally Got Out the Vote," WSC's Republican Club was ommitted from the article as a group that sponsored the event.

The Voice

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The Voice
Publication Policy

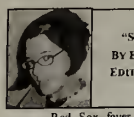
Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Your breasts have nothing to do with baseball



"So It Goes"
By Emily Engel
Editor-In-Chief

Red Sox fever has once again swept the lives of exciteable sports fans all over this wonderful state, and I, for one, welcome it whole-heartedly. I welcome the excitement that we feel everyday on campus; it's in the air, the buzz, the predictions, the cute pink "B" hats and the overall unity that seems to occur when the Sox go further and further. Yes, it's true. I have caught the fever. However, over the course of the last two evenings, I have seen three pairs of breasts. That's six seperate boobs. Not a usual nightly occurance for me, unless I happen to see the scantly clad girls of Scanlon Hall running to and from the shower in their itty-bitty towels. But no, it wasn't that. Instead I got to feast my eyes on the bongos of three WSC girls who were just begging for attention at the "Red Sox riots" we have had the last two nights.

The mini-riots have been fabulously funny; clueless underclassmen standing around waiting for someone to gather the gumption to ignite some cheap toilet paper or burnrush the onderpaid cops in riot gear who are only hired to babysit. To be honest, I feel the most bad for the dogs. They could be out busting drug dealers and doing something good for society, or even sleeping on big pillows instead of threatening to rip the limbs off skinny pale baseball fans if they step out of line. But let's move on to the bazoombas.

I must say, this event, these acts of indecent exposure have been one of the most intriguing of this set of riots. These ladies (ugh, I wish I could find a better, less respectful word other than 'ladies' to describe these people) who decided to oblige the boys who chanted, wanting to see something, anything, topless, need a lesson on what NOT to do.

I'm sorry, did I miss that memo stating that "Girls Gone Wild" was going to do a shoot at Westfield? Oh, that's not what happened? Then keep your breasts in your tight shirt.

One of our reporters was on the scene the first night students gathered in the courtyard and actually got a quote from one of the educated feminists that flashed the goods.

"This school has nothing going on," said freshman Laura Wyse, before she was temporarily detained for exposing her breasts to the mob outside Dickinson Hall. "We got to riot more.'" (This story can be found on page one).

Funny. This freshmen didn't mention the fact that she FLASHED HER BREASTS TO A BUNCH OF PATHETIC EXCUSES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEN WAS DETAINED FOR IT. That's trash! Plain and simple! Excuse my language, but what the f*ck planet are you on? Luckily I missed her display, but jeez, this makes me ali uppity.

The thing is, I'm not even as ripped at these females as I am at the males. Let's think of the logics for a second ... Okay, you're standing around, you've been chanting "Yankees suck" far too long and you're scared of the large German Shepards. Hmmm, what next, what next. Oh, I've got it! Let's degrate some women! BOOBS!

You know boys, it's pretty obvious that if you have to chant for them, you don't see them all too often on your own. I wouldn't be surprised if the group of 200 or so guys have seen seven real breasts, collectively.

What astounds me is that three other females followed suit on the second night. You know, I'm not even going to contemplate as to why they decided to do so. But instead, I shall rate the breasts that I saw. Hey, you showed us your goods, they are now public property and I will tell you exactly what I thought of them. You are no longer women. You are now just breasts to me, as well as to the rest that saw you.

Girl #1: Can we say training bra? Hey lady, if you can't even full out an A cup, what makes you think any of us want to see? Do us a favor and put some band aids on those mosquito bites and keep your shirt down.

Girl #2: I got a great view of your rack. They reminded me of large balloons filled with pudding. They looked pretty stretched out. Puberty's a bitch, huh? But fear not! I hear that Noxema puts out a great cream for stretch marks. Crunches might be in the near future for you also.

Girl #3: Two words: Limp pancakes. You ought to cover those puppies with syrup and have them served at Bickford's. Seriously though, try sticking a bicycle pump into your nipple and hope for the best.

So who was the winner? None of them. I got a face-full of trash. I say we all lost.

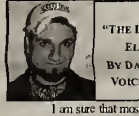
Oooh, that's smarts, huh?

Self-respect is something that seems to be running low amoogst some of the female population, doesn't it? Sad stuff.

I guess that's what happens when you act like pieces of meat. You end up being treated as such.

'Til next time ...

Steve Urkel for President!



"The Left-Handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Colmnist

I am sure that most of you are aware of the debates that occurred recently between President George W. Bush and Senator John F. Kerry. Frankly, I am sick of politics at this point. I guess election years just grate on people like that. However, I can guarantee you that I am not the only one. Believe me. Nonetheless, I guess I should add my commentary to the matter because as we all know, I am the figurehead of everything that is conservative/truth on this campus. Okay, so maybe I'm not quite the figurehead, but at least I use my logic.

I guess I should just be blunt and hit you where the sun don't shine on this matter. Is anyone else on this campus absolutely sick of seeing John Kerry's stupid mug plastered everywhere? I cannot stand that guy! Could the Democrats have picked a man with less personality or charisma? He sounds like a robot even when he is making "jokes." And his jokes suck! I have the absolute best idea ever, and if those liberals would have gotten back to me sooner, I could have guaranteed them the presidency. If I were in charge, do you know who would have won the nomination? Jaleel White! Yes, Steve Urkel, the polka king and the only reason *Family Matters* stayed on the air for as long as it did, for president of the United States. At least we know that when the Urkman messes up by throwing a television through Carl Winslow's window, crashing a car into his house, or not following up on promises to bring troops home from Iraq, we could just throw him into his transformation machine, add some "boss sauce" and BING! Out comes Stephan Ur-kel to smooth talk us back to normality. Plus, I doubt Kerry has a pair of dinosaur slippers that roar when you walk or look that good in suspenders.

I guess you have all figured out that I like George Bush a bit more than his challenger, but at least the man is a human being. For Bob's sake, some of you are voting for someone I think Steve Urkel could replace with absolutely no problem at all. That should be telling you something! When I saw George Bush debating, at least he showed that he had some sort of personality. He laughed at the bull that was flying out of John Kerry's mouth, and got angry when he wanted a fair chance to reply to the lies that Mr. Kerry so slyly expressed. The only thing Kerry could do was talk about how rich his wife is, tell Dick Cheney that his daughter is a lesbian (because I am sure he wasn't aware), and make empty promises that he has no intention of upholding. Period.

So kids, if you want to make your vote really count in this political Siberia of a state, then I urge you to not waste your vote on John Kerry and instead write in Jaleel White. At least you know you are voting for someone you can get rid of with the flick of a switch and a little bit of boss sauce.

A key for all seasons

"The Gospel According to George"
By Bill George
Voice Columnist

"Locknetics on board." That phrase sound familiar? It should. It adorns all of the tech keys here at school. These little watch batteries are necessary for a student to enter their dorm building from the outside and to unlock their bathroom while inside. Unlike conventional keys, these devices are small, light weight, and easy to use. With a tech key you never have to worry about embarrassing yours elf in front your peers by accidentally turning it the wrong way. This, of course, is followed immediately by a smart-alecky question such as, "How long have you been living here exactly?"

I'm a huge fan of these tech keys. I'd like to see them on every dorm room and phase out the old keys. They work perfectly for the outsides of the buildings. And we need those locks to prevent any vandalism or theft to the lobby. They are quick and simple. So why the hell am I writing about them? Well, tech keys should not be implemented on the bathroom doors. Period. They started out for female restrooms only but now have become an all gender encompassing epidemic. Tech locks on the bathrooms are useless, inconvenient and even dangerous.

Let's not kid ouselves. A lot of the time the tech locks don't even lock. Often times I've found that the door eases to a stop prior to latching shut. If this happens, people are lugging around an extra key for no reason and it's a waste of the school's money. If the lock isn't going to dasp, it might as well be a public bathroom like the ones in the lobbies and academic buildings.

Another common occurrence is someone having an opposite sex guest over and them needing to go to the bathroom. If I had my non-existent girlfriend over to visit and she had to use the facilities, I'd have to start wandering around trying to find a girl to borrow a key from. It's just a pain. Also, I've had a girl in my hall ask to borrow my key for her male friend. This isn't a problem usually but I always get a little nervous the guy is going to pocket my keys instinctively and I'll never seem them again. Then I'm left footing a ridiculous key replacement bill.

At the very least the keys should work for bathrooms around campus. Visiting someone in another hall and going all the way to the bathroom only to go back and ask my friend to dig up his key right in the middle of a movie is the worst. And when a big group of people are hanging out, keys are flying all over the place and you got to be careful and keep active track of where yours are just in case they get lost or pocketed. Or worse, they get locked within the bathroom.

Now I'm aware that the reasons for abolishing the bathroom lock listed above are weak. They are purely inconveniences and nothing truly problematic or urgent. But let me give you a hypothetical situation that scares me and should scare any woman on campus.

It's a late night (possibly after a long Red Sox game or something to that effect). A young woman decides she is going to take a quick shower before bed. Then, a young man (who is more than likely drunk) spots her. He sees her walk in her robe towards the bathroom with her toiletries and he decides he is going to take advantage of the situation. He knows it is so late everyone is either out rioting or sleeping. She goes into the bathroom and he creeps up and stops the bathroom door before it can shut all the way, waits a bit, and sneaks inside. He begins to sexually assault the girl and she begins to scream. Luckily, I happen to have my door open while watching the post-game show and I hear screaming. I get suspicious and go to the women's room. I can hear muffled yelling coming from the other side, and I know something is wrong. I decide to run in and help her. But a little red light flashes and my lack of a magnet the size of a dime is preventing me from doing anything. Now the girl is being raped and all I can do is run around knocking on doors trying to wake up some girl to get her key. By the time I bust in he's already run back into his anonymous room and left her lying on the floor wrapped in a shower curtain.

The very lock and key system put in to prevent pranks, peeping toms, and sexual predators, has the possibility of back firing. On the other hand, if the boy knew that the bathroom was open for people to publicly come and go, he may not have been so confident in his ability to commit the crime. But he knows that he is alone in there with the victim and everyone else is asleep. He also knows that no one is getting in unless they are a girl with a tech key and he is confident he could get by her.

While I love tech keys and admire the school's focus on safety, they need to think about switching back to public restrooms like most people are use to in the real world. Or possibly implement tech locks on a second door leading to the shower area only. Leaving the restroom part open and public. If a guy goes into a girl's restroom he is automatically marked as a sex offender. That should be a harsh enough penalty to prevent people from wondering in. Also if a group of adult human beings cannot respect the privacy of public bathrooms, well, I think we have more problems than anything "Locknetics" makes can fix.

If you have any column suggestions for me, feel free to email them to: "wgeorge0149@wsc.ma.edu."

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Days- Jes Rich at ext. 5533
Nights- Officer Jay Hastings at ext. 5262

Class size is limited to 16 so don't hesitate to call!

Endorse Your

Next week The Voice will run a special Presidential Election edition. We will include an informational breakdown of both candidates as well as a collection of endorsments by students, faculty, and staff.
E-mail your endorcement to thevoice@wsc.ma.edu or

Mad at the bosses

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
Voice Columnist

I have become obsessed with world domination over the years. To attain my goal I find it necessary to first become the leader of different organizations. Recently I was made an editor of The Voice (one step closer). I was very excited about this position for several reasons. Firstly, I love writing and I love the English language and I think it is necessary for everyone to have a certain level of proficiency regarding this language. Also, I love writing for The Voice and I would love even more to become editor-in-chief as soon as it becomes possible.

Before I become editor-in- chief of The Voice, I will obviously be working under my current editors in chief. However, as you might have noticed in last week's issue of The Voice, there were many grammatical and mechanical errors riddling the issue. This has been the case since the beginning of the academic year, which was understandable considering the lack of people they had working for them (especially on the editorial board). I spent two hours with a colleague of mine editing that very issue of The Voice on Wednesday night for apparently no reason at all.

While many writers have been criticized for sending in letters to the editor that were allegedly riddled with errors themselves, I want to assure our audience that it is not only appreciated, but necessary for you to send in letters with regard to mechanical and grammatical errors. We are a newspaper after all, and it is our job to make sure the publication we put before you is as accurate and error-free as possible. One might think we were putting out a grammar test with the issues that have been out thus far.

My point of contention with The Voice is this: if I am to spend my time editing our paper, I expect that the corrections I make are put into the final copy of the paper. I am not going to be known as a horrendous editor because I edit a paper that is full of errors of every imaginable sort. If the paper continues to be run in such a way that suggested revisions are not even looked at, I am not sure I want to be affiliated with it at all. Despite all of this boss-bashing, I do have one person to thank, and that person is co-editor-in-chief, Matt Bemat.

I was hesitant about speaking in person to either one of the editors in chief for fear that I might be bashed on in one way or another, but Matt accepted my ranting not as such, but instead, as constructive criticism. It is, after all, his paper too. What is put into the paper and what comes out of it reflects upon him and Emily much more than it reflects on me. He has told me that he will make a full effort to make sure that all revisions made are put into effect, so we are looking at a paper that seems at least semi-professional (thanks for that, by the way Matt). As for the future; I guess it depends on how smoothly written the issue of The Voice you are looking at appears to be.

Arts & Entertainment

Mike's Amaizing Corn Maze is fall fun

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

Mike's Amaizing Corn Maze in Sunderland, MA provides hours of entertainment for a fun fall afternoon. The maze is in the farmland north of Amherst. Along the way there are stands selling pumpkins, gourds, veggies, cider, and doughnuts.

The corn maze is perfect for any age. There were families, teens, and middle aged couples all doing the same thing.

Each year the maze is made in different shapes. This year, the design was the republican and democrat presidential candidates. The game is a maze with points to get to throughout the whole thing. It starts and the participants are either "potato party" or "pumpkin party" and have to make it to all thirty "states" in the cornfield with Bush and Kerry's heads mapped out.

When the players make their way to the stops they discover which group gets the votes or points. It took a while to get through the maze but it was fun because of the competition.

After the maze, the winner or the winning group gets a pumpkin or tee shirt and they get a free potato for the potato shooter. The potato cannon was homemade with PVC pipes and if the shooter aims correctly they get another.

Mike's Amaizing Corn Maze has free parking and they sell pumpkins of all sizes as well as food and they have the maze. There is an excellent view from on top of the platform. Sugarloaf is where to see the maze shape the best.

In previous years the maze has been the Mona Lisa, Babe Ruth, King Tut, and the Minuteman maze. It is the quintessential fall activity. It takes a while, but only costs $5 with a student ID.

The website provides directions, weekend weather forecasts, and excellent photos of the maze and past mazes.

Wear sneakers because it can be muddy if there has been rain, plus the walkthrough a cornfield is not the cleanest place most people spend their time.

The corn maze is a fun alternative to sitting around during the day on weekends. Eastern Massachusetts folks will be in awe at the farms, the price of pumpkins, and the picturesque view. They are only open for a few more weekends so go make your way through the cornfield!

Shark Tale delivers underwater hijinks

BY DAN COOPER
VOICE REPOTER

Dreamworks Animation Studios' latest computer animated film, "Shark Tale," may at first glance appear to be a rip-off of Disney's "Finding Nemo," but it really is anything but that. It's really a film about a little fish, a big lie, and the shark mafia.

The film features the voice of Will Smith as a fish named Oscar who works at the local Whale Wash Company in an underwater New York City.

The Whale Wash is owned by a puffer fish named Sykes, (Martin Scorsese, recognizable through the bushy eyebrows) who has ties to the local shark mafia.

Oscar is in a bit of trouble as he owes Sykes five thousand clams in debt. Oscar's best friend Angie (Renee Zellweger) helps him acquire the money, but he immediately blows it.

Sykes banishes him to the deep blue sea and Oscar gets confronted by two sharks, Frankie and Lenny (Jack Black). These two are the sons of the Godfather of the sharks, Don Lino (Robert De Niro).

Lenny is not like his father or brother. He's a gentle shark who loathes violence and is a vegetarian. Lino and Frankie have been trying to groom him into a killer and, when Lenny helps Oscar escape rather than eat him, Frankie explodes. An accident kills Frankie and his peers dub Oscar, who saw everything, the "Sharkslayer."

Don Lino of course wants to settle the score, not knowing the truth behind Frankie's death. Lenny, who blames himself for the death, runs away and asks Oscar to take him in.

Oscar is now living the life of a celebrity as he's fighting between Angie and a sexy fish named Lola (Angelina Jolie), has Sykes as his manager, and is getting interviewed constantly by the local news reporter Katie Current (Katie Couric).

"Shark Tale" is full of pop culture references and fans of De Niro and Scorsese will enjoy the sly references between the two in their brief dialogue together. The film is at its best when Lenny and Oscar are on screen, providing for some of the film's best moments.

"This is a fun movie to catch on a depressing day that should automatically cheer you up."

-Dan Cooper

The only downside to the film is that Lenny is unfortunately relegated to supporting status to Will Smith's Oscar. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but Lenny tends to be the more interesting character in the film, as he is not your typical shark. The real scene-stealer in the film though, is Scorsese's Sykes, who has some of the best dialogue and funniest moments throughout the movie.

The animation in "Shark Tale" is top-notch, securing another beauty from Dreamworks. The underwater world is perfectly done and the characters are animated with their respective actors' trademarks, such as the mole on De Niro, Jolie's killer lips, and so on.

"Shark Tale also features the voices of Michael Imperioli, Peter Falk, Doug E. Doug, and Vincent Pastore.

If you're looking for a fun time at the cinema, "Shark Tale" delivers the laughs and some pop culture references fans of mafia movies and movies in general should pick up. This is a fun movie to catch on a depressing day that should automatically cheer you up.

A Taste of Summertime

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

The Summer House in Southwick has a sign reading: "A taste of summer all year long," but the taste is like summer, Christmas, and a day-off school all wrapped up into one. As the weather gets colder, a taste of summer is definitely needed.

The food, dress, and atmosphere are all casual. This cannot be emphasized enough. There is some seating inside, but many take the food outside or to go.

The menu offers mostly burgers, sandwiches, and sides. The chicken cheddar melt was excellent. A simple sandwich of grilled chicken, cheddar cheese, tomato and bacon on sourdough bread was delicious. The cheeseburger and the chilidog were also well liked.

The onion rings and fries were both very tasty and greasy, thus the basis of the appeal. The soup of the day was cream of broccoli and was surprisingly good. The clam chowder was liked as much as the chili and the cream of broccoli.

The value was amazing. A true appeal for broke college students. "Dining without the Commons" ate at The Summer House and three hungry students ate for less than $20.

Even after all the food, there has to be room for ice cream. Their ice cream is incredible. They offer a wide variety of hard serve flavors, soft serve, and soft yogurt flavors. The ice cream is very reasonably priced and their sizes are generous.

Again, the deal is quite appealing. Ice creams for three only cost $5. The price is right for this meal.

Dining without the Commons

Taste: ★★★★

Price: entire meal $3-$7

Location: Southwick

Service: ★★★★

Specialties: sandwiches ice cream

Rent movies?
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Have new ideas for us??

The Voice wants YOUR A&E! Send us your reivew and critiques by Mondays @ 5! Or e-mail us and we'll help you write one or give you ideas!

thecompusvoice@hotmail.com

Football is not just a game; Friday Night Lights is a Touchdown

BY JILL MONSON
VOICE REPOTER

When personal life draws you to something it can't be ignored. I learned what football really means to high school students, grown men, and a community... and no : wasn't from seeing "Friday Night Lights" (that came on later).

High school assistant football coach, Coach Netcoh of Windsor Locks, CT passed away but remained in the hearts of his players. I thought to myself... "How important can a coach really be... geez?" Well, that question was answered when I realized that until the day of his passing this man had inspired many young men.

He taught them to give 110% of themselves not only to the game, but also to life. He was a Korean War vet, a firefighter for thirty-or-so years, a father, grandfather, and for many a hero. This review is dedicated to Coach Netcoh... may you rest knowing that you touched many souls and know that we'll carry that forward.

That is why the preview for "Friday Night Lights" sent me on way to the theater. It's based oo a book written by H.G. Bissinger and directed by his cousin Peter Berg (who played Richard Weidner in "Collateral"). It tells the real life story about Odessa, TX and the Permian High Panthers football team.

It takes place in 1988 in a town that has little else to be excited about than football. The town is desolate with run down businesses and homes. The only thing for miles is dust and oil wells, with the exception of the football stadium. Football is so important that it's talked about at dinner parties, the cops only care about asking the boys about the game, even the store owners put up "gone to the game" signs.

-File Photo

Billy Bob Thornton in 'Friday Night Lights'

The casting job in this movie was fabulous. Billy Bob Thornton playing Coach Gary Gaines, being more than the Principal in town. The quarterback is Mike "Mojo" Winchell played by the basically unknown but fantastic Lucas Black.

Derek Luke who you might remember from his role as Antwone Fisher plays the star of the team Bobbie Miles. Garrett Hedlund, another relatively unknown, plays Don Billingsley, a struggling player whose father is Charles played by Tim McGraw. Country fans are forewarned... this is McGraw like you've never seen him.

He does an outstanding job in the role, but don't expect to see the hunk in a cowboy hat that we're used too.

So what is it about football that's so important? Well for the young men in this town it is their way out. They are stars with only the goal of winning state on their minds.

Soroeone said something about relaxing, that they're only seventeen... the other ball player replied, "Do you feel seventeen?" Football was all consuming, whether these guys wanted it to be or not. A sign in the locker room said it best... "Whatever it takes".

Trust me this movie isn't a guy's flick, it isn't only for those who love football... it's a movie that looks at deep family issues, class issues, race issues. It's a movie that teaches us to "be perfect" (which you'll understand more clearly once you see the film). Trust me this one is a must see... a true touchdown!

"Musical Forest" not intended for college students

BY EMILY RANSOM
A&E EDITOR

Monday, October 18, the Guest Lecture Series sponsored the "Musical Forest." Despite competition of the Red Sox game at the same time, there were between 50 and 60 in attendance. The show lasted just over an hour because the performers chose not to have the scheduled intermission.

Scott Hartman played the trombone, Mihae Lee played the piano and Colleen Riordan was the narrator. All the performers have a lot of musical training and seemed comfortable on stage but the performance did not exactly have the overwhelming appeal it was thought to offer.

> **"The narrator was accurately expressing the 'grave and stern' mood just as the poem mentions, but by the end it was mostly yelling over the intense music to get the words across."**

The songs were played very well but the audience did not do as well guessing the animal as it seemed they should have. The narrator told the audience that the middle school students they performed for earlier that day did well.

The poems to music was an interesting idea but the advertising for the program did not adequately explain the show. There were a great many community members, but the WSC student population was lacking in attendance.

A few professors offered the show as extra credit, which drew a few students, and some student government students attended but the community members greatly outnumbered the students.

Eleven songs/poems were performed. Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" was the reason a few of the American Literature classes were offering extra credit. "The Raven" was not what most expected.

It was actually difficult to concentrate on the poem and the music. The narrator was accurately expressing the "grave and stern" mood just as the poem mentions, but by the end it was mostly yelling over the intense music to get the words across.

Some of the other songs seemed like a stretch to fit the idea.

There were a few short poems to accompany the music and the poems could be described as cute, or whimsical but the program seemed more intended for children although they might not appreciate the goal either.

The program was unique and was a pleasant experience, but it probably would have had better attendance for a differeot population.

Seen On The Green

-Photo by Bridget Gleason

Holly, Hailey, Chrissy, Rob, Nancey, and Joe are the infamous group of hacky-sackers who can be seen out in front of Courtney at any given time. The group says they play after classes, at night, and soroetimes even during class.

Health Capsule

ATTENTION W.S.C. STUDENTS!

Due to a national shortage, flu vaccines will not be available at the clinic scheduled for October 28th, 2004 in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. There will be, however, medimmune shots available for $90.

It is suggested that if you have not yet received a medimmune shot you get one as soon as possible. As of next fall 2005 it will be required that all college students get one.

The Banacos Ro ad Race has been changed to Sunday Nov. 21 @12pm due to NCAA Divison III Field Hockey Championships to be held at WSC Saturday Nov 20.

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals

Have A Ball - Meet New People

Anyone Interested in Extreme Dodgeball (Men or Women) Please Contact the IM office.

Dodgeball will be happening in the New Woodward Center.

IM Department is Now Accepting Rosters For:

5-5 Basketball (M&W)
Co-ed Volleyball
Co-ed Water Polo
Soccer (M&W)
Billiards (M&W)

Anyone Interested in Intramural Lacrosse (Men or Women)

Please Contact the IM Office in Parenzo Gym (P-169) (Right Under the BBall Hoop)

This is DEFINITELY HAPPENING - we will have an IM Lacrosse League.

If you have any questions please contact: Coach Rich Fului @ Laxgoal28@comcast.net

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

Work Study Positions Still Available in Intramural Athletic

Come to our office in Parenzo Gym (P-169)

Circle K

Ely 3rd World Room
Wednesday nights @ 7 p.m.
Come see what it's all about!

Get involved!
Make a difference!
Join Circle K!

Sports Roundup

Women's Soccer Shuts Out MCLA

WESTFIELD - The Westfield State College women's soccer team won its first conference game by blanking MCLA, 2-0, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 19.

The Owls are 5-6-1 overall and 1-2-1 in the Mass. State Conference. MCLA is 2-9-2 and 0-5.

Sophomore forward Kate McMillan (Belchertown) scored the game-winning goal on a breakaway in the 31st minute, with an assist from senior Tara McDonough (Palmer).

Junior back Elizabeth Rosales (Belmont), who was moved to the forward position for the game, scored an insurance goal in the second half, following a nice assist from sophomore Emily Johnson (East Longmeadow).

Westfield outshot MCLA, 21-10.

College Field Hockey

Westfield State 6 – Salem State 1

WESTFIELD– Sophomore forward Shanna Litterst had two goals and three assists to lead Westfield State to a 6-1 conference field hockey victory over Salem State on Oct. 16.

The Owls improved to 9-3 overall and 5-2 in the conference, following two tough road losses earlier in the week. Salem is 2-9.

Litterst recorded assists on the first three goals and scored the fourth goal as the Owls jumped out to a 5-0 halftime lead. The first-year player from Falmouth leads the Owls in scoring with nine goals and four assists.

Scoring two first-half goals was freshman Carolyn Insigne (Lindenhurst, N.Y.).

College Volleyball

WORCESTER – Westfield State suffered a pair of 3-1 setbacks to Worcester State and Framingham in a conference tri-match Oct. 16.

Westfield (8-11 overall, 3-2 conference) won the first game against Worcester in thrilling fashion, 35-33. The second-place Lancers took the next three games 30-19, 30-19, 30-24.

Leading the Owls were: Lindsay Dalene (21 kills), Krista Grifoni (40 assists), Amy Svatike (30 digs), and Stephanie West (5 kills, 16 digs).

The Owls also won a lengthy opening game vs. Framingham, 31-29. The Rams won the next three 30-25, 30-24, 31-29.

Leading the Owls were: Dalene (16 kills, 10 blocks), Grifoni (40 assists, 7 digs), Svatik (32 digs, 3 kills), West (6 kills, 10 digs), Rachel Sweeney (8 kills, 2 blocks), Kate Spriegel (11 blocks), and Morgan Hosking (7 kills, 5 digs, 2 blocks).

College Men's Soccer

Mass Maritime 3 – Westfield 1

BUZZARDS BAY – Mass Maritime Academy won its fourth straight game behind Brendan Duggan's two goals in a 3-1 victory over Westfield State on Oct. 16.

Mass Maritime is 7-5 overall and 3-1 in the conference. The Owls are 5-5-2 and 1-2-1.

Duggan scored four minutes into the game to stake the Bucs to a 1-0 lead. Westfield junior Ray Cheria of Ludlow tied the score with eight minutes remaining in the first half.

Duggan scored the game-winning goal six minutes into the second half. The Bucs tacked on an insurance goal in the 76th minute.

Westfield State sports scores and stats www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics

Westfield State College field hockey standout Shanna Litterst was named the Little East Conference Rookie of the Week for Oct. 17. The sophomore forward from Falmouth compiled three goals and four assists in three games last week. She had two goals and three assists in a 6-1 victory over Salem State. Litterst tallied a goal and an assist in a tough 3-2 road loss at Framingham State. Litterst, who played basketball her freshman year at Westfield, leads the Owls in scoring with nine goals and four assists. Westfield has a 9-3 overall record and is tied for second place in the Little East Conference with a 5-2 mark. *Mickey Curtis Photo*

The Westfield State College men's and women's basketball teams officially began preseason practice Oct. 15 in preparation for the 2004-2005 season. Pictured above is head coach Steve Marcil leading his team through some low post drills. The first basketball game in the Woodward Center is scheduled for Nov. 30 when the men's team hosts Williams College at 7:30. Williams was the NCAA Division III national champion in 2003 and the national runner-up in 2004. *Mickey Curtis Photo*

2004 WESTFIELD STATE FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS: First row, left to right: Gisel Cahoon, Michelle Ranieri, Stacy Poutas, Amelia Ahlen, Megan Dickinson, Lisa Florio, Kaitlyn Mack.
Second row: Kim Kordana, Jackie Healy, Maryland Spicer, Joanne Mederios, Sarah Hartley, Amie Sullivan, Kristy Laflamme, Becky Cook.
Third row: Laura Sedowski, Katelyn Merz, Danielle Taleas, Kandy Lane, Kim Gavin.

Owls Fall To Bridgewater

The Bridgewater State College football team forced five second-half turnovers, turning them into 21 points, as the Bears shut out Westfield State College, 27-0, at BSC's Swenson field.

With the win BSC improves to 4-2 overall and 3-1 in the NEFC Bogan division. Westfield falls to 3-3 on the season and 2-2 in divisional play.

The game was truly a defensive showdown as the teams played to a 3-0 score at the half.

In the second half, Bridgewater kept up the defensive intensity as they forced an interception on the Owls' first possession of the third quarter. Sophomore defensive back Zane Fyfe (Rehoboth) picked off the errant pass at the Bridgewater 41 yard line and returned it 50 yards to the Westfield nine. Two plays later, junior halfback Brenden Kavey (Pittsfield) found the end zone from six yards out to give BSC the 10-0 lead.

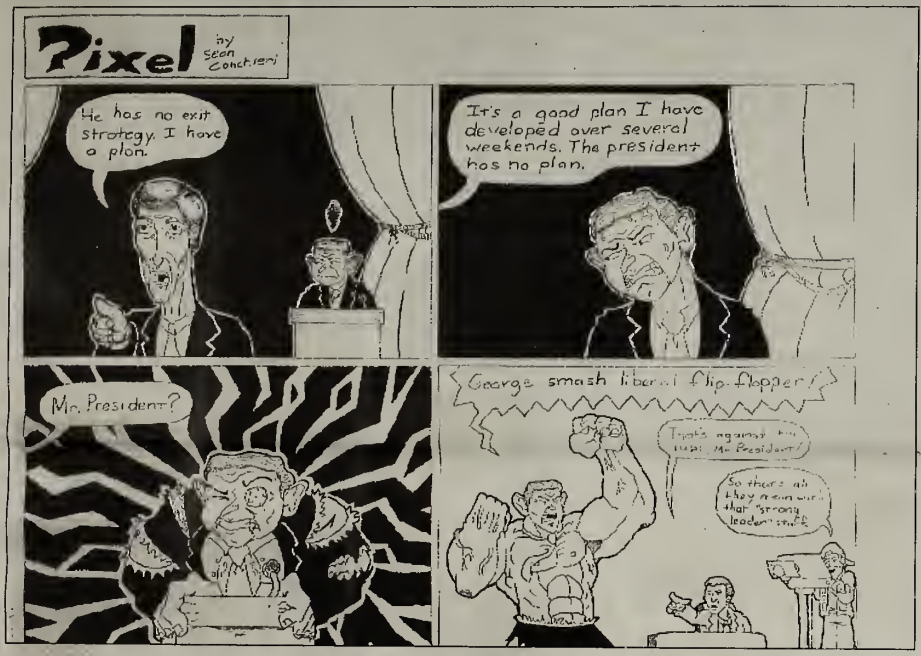
After freshman kicker Mike Garrity (Topsfield) knocked home his second 27-yard field goal attempt of the day in the fourth quarter, Bridgewater again capitalized on yet another Westfield turnover. Sophomore defensive end Mike Sirignano (Hanover) forced a fumble on a sack and junior linebacker Doug Borsari (Kingston) returned the fumble all the way down to the Westfield nine. Two plays later, junior quarterback Adam Camobreco (Duxbury) punched it in from five yards out and the ensuing extra point gave BSC the 20-0 lead.

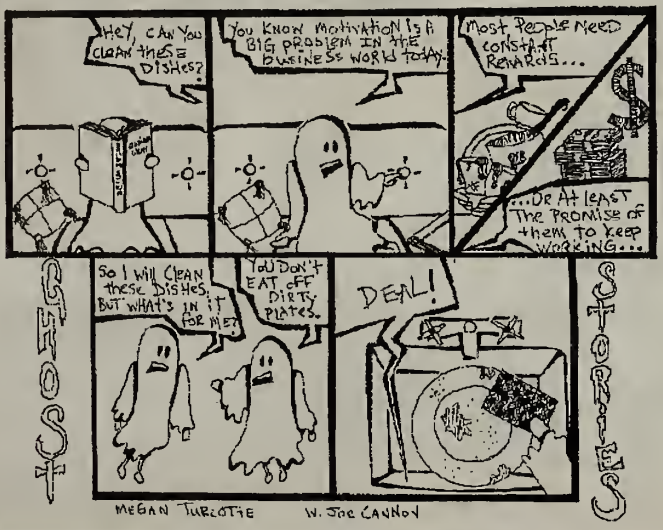
The Bears defense was not finished, however, as it forced its third interception of the game. Junior linebacker Matt Hammond intercepted a pass at the Westfield 43 and returned it down to the 20 yard line. The Bears again took advantage of the turnover as Camobreco hooked up with junior Ethan Plante (North Dighton) on a five-yard touchdown pass.

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"When I was younger, I couldn't afford to buy my own Halloween candy, so freshman year, I bought all the candy I wanted just because I could. If you think a hangover is bad, try waking up the day after you finish a three-pound bag of candy corn."

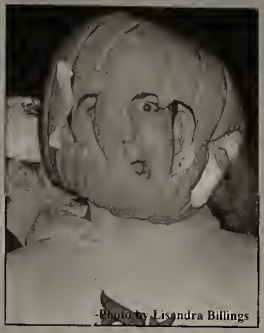
For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page @ www.collegehumor.com





Red Sox win ALCS...students turn celebration to confrontation

-Photo by Mike Coughlin


-Photo by Lisandra Billings

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

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-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

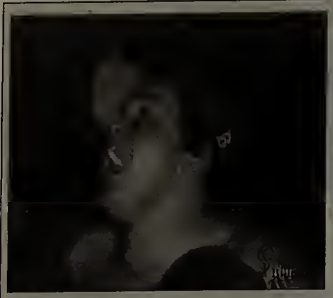

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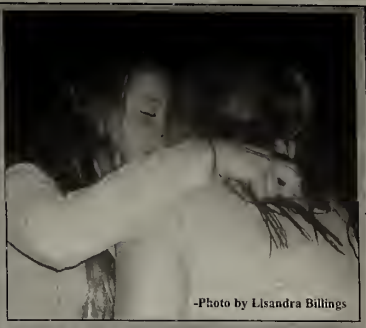
Photo by Mike Coughlin



-Photo by Lisandra Billings

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-Photo by Mike Coughlin

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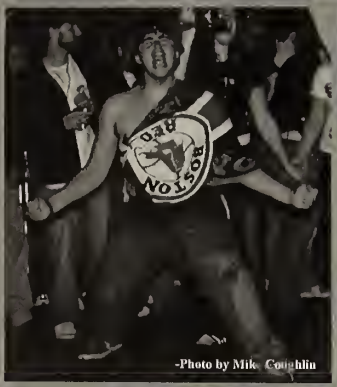


-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Overheard at the riots...

"BACON! BACON! BACON!"

"I got my rights!"

"You can't touch me!"

"Rodney King! Rodney King!"

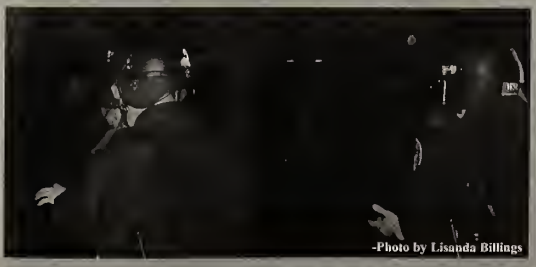
"A**hole! A**hole!"

And of course, the obvious...

"Yankees suck! Yankees suck!"

"Damon rules! Damon rules!"

-Photo by Mike Coughlin


-Photo by Lisanda Billings

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

The *New* Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks

10/25 - Fahrenheit 9/11 &
The Whole Ten Yards
10/26 - Starky & Hutch &
13 Going on 30
10/27 - Hellboy & Secret Window
10/28 - Jersey Girl & Paycheck
10/29-10/31 - Godsend &
Dirty Dancing Havana Nights
Movies Start at 8pm on Chs. 70 & 71

Commuter Halloween Event

Thursday, October 28
Quixotes Area
11am–1pm

Cookies – Raffle – Fun

WSC Athletics This Week

Volleyball v. Bridgewater - T - 6p
Field Hockey v. Anna Maria - R - 7p
Field Hockey v. E. Conn. - Sat - 12p
Swim/Diving v. Simmons - Sat - 1p
W. Soccer v. Worcester - Sat - 3p

See Athletics Webpage for complete list.

Mon 10/25	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm	
Tue 10/26	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	Josten's Class Ring Sale - Ely - 11-4pm SGA Meeting - 5:30p	Volleyball v. Bridgewater State - WOOD - 6pm
Wed 10/27	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Josten's Class Ring Sale - Ely - 11-4pm	Halloween Fun Stop - Parenzo Gym - 3-8pm CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm	Carl Andrews - Guest Lecture - SBH - 5pm
Thurs 10/28	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	WSC v. Anna Maria - AF - 7pm	
Fri 10/29	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	Sawyer Flute Recital - DA - 7:30pm	
Sat 10/30	WSC v. Eastern Connecticut - AF - Noon WSC v. Simmons - Ely Pool - 1pm WSC v. Worcester State - AF - 3pm	**Sun 10/31**	Happy Halloween Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X **October 25, 2004** **Issue VII**

Strong police force keeps Red Sox mob in check

K-9 Units, Batons and Riot gear on hand to control students

pg. 1

Davis Hall Davis Hall

You have Urban Legends

pg. 1

Were you there? Five full pages of 'Riot' photos

pgs. 15-19

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield

Volume X | November 1, 2004 | Issue VIII

It's official, President Carwein inaugurated

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

On Friday, October 22, school and community officials, as well as a small number of students came together for the inauguration of Vicki L. Carwein as Westfield State College's eighteenth president.

Carwein is the first woman to ever be elected as president of Westfield State College in its 165-year history.

"We were looking for someone who could see the big picture and see the people in it," said Gina M. Golish, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, on the board's choice to elect Carwein.

After a prelude and procession performed by the Westfield State College Wind Symphony, led by Dr. Karen Lavoie, Jane Rasool, Senior Vice President of Academic affairs, welcomed the guests present and was the first of several to praise Carwein and welcome her to the college community.

Of Carwein, Rasool said that she, "hit the ground running," and that she has the "fortitude" to handle the responsibilities that come with being president of a college institution. Although the presence of the symphony orchestra and the chorale, as well as the prestige of the guests present, lent a formal atmosphere to the occasion, there were several points during the welcoming speeches that drew laughter from the crowd.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

President Carwein onstage at her inauguration.

Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Gina M. Golash, remarked that the board was looking for someone who is "dynamic, compassionate, dignified," adding, "and in our salary range."

State Representative Don Humason also drew a chuckle from the crowd when he, in an effort to emphasize his point about "looking forward" to the future of Westfield State and President Carwein's leadership, mentioned the inspirational quote, "what you are is God's gift to you, what you make yourself is your gift to God," and then stopped short and said, "at the risk of sounding like a clergyman—I'm happy being a politician." Humason, who is a Westfield State College alumnus of the Class of 1989, then clarified his point by saying that our role as individuals should be, "to make something of ourselves and the institution."

Speaking directly after Humason, Westfield Mayor Richard K. Sullivan, Jr. said, emphasized the need for

Inauguration-Page 3

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

One faculty member gives a thumbs up as she marches in the procession to President Vikki Carwein's inauguration which was held Friday, October 22.

Protest presence at inauguration

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Faculty and Librarians picketed the Inauguration of Westfield State College's President Vicky Carwein. They handed out flyers describing the disputes the Union is having with the College of Presidents and then attended the Inauguration.

"The President has shown some signs to taking the language off the table, so we decided to do informational picketing and then attend," said Gerry Tetrault, Union Chapter President. The biggest problem the Union has had with the pro-

Protest-Page 3

Water main break leaves students high and dry

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

WESTFIELD – A Westfield water main broke early Sunday morning causing problems with the college's water supply.

The damaged pipe was found at 5 a.m. on Granville Rd. A twelve-inch crack running lengthwise along the conduit caused the leak.

"That water main services this side of the city of Westfield," said Curt Robie, assistant Vice President and director of facilities and operations at WSC.

The citywide water distribution system includes two hundred miles of underground water mains ranging from four to twenty inches wide.

Within two hours, the Westfield Water Department was able to redirect water to the college as well as the other affected Westfield neighborhoods.

"We isolated the break," said Charles Darling, head of the Westfield Water Department. "It released so much water that it de-pressured."

Although the problem was fixed quickly, abnormalities in the campus water were obvious.

Water-Page 3

F.B.I makes an inquiry at WSC

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Since the Unites States Patriot Act was passed following September 11, 2001, many foreign students have been the subject of background searches at colleges and universities across the country.

Westfield State College (WSC) is among them.

One foreign student attending Westfield State College has been the subject of a F.B.I. inquiry under section 215 of the USA PATRIOT (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism). This is the act that gives the federal government broader powers of investigation to combat terrorism in the areas of surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Section 215 states; "The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee of the director...may make an application for an order requiring the production of any tangible things (including books, records, papers, documents, and other items) for an investigation to protect against international terrorism...provided that such investigation of a United States person is not conducted solely on the basis of activities protected by the first amendment..."

'The Voice' heard about the Patriot Act being used to investigate WSC students from Vice President of Student Affairs Arthur Jackson at a brown bag luncheon held in mid-September.

There are around 25 international exchange students attending WSC this semester "and that's a conservative estimate," said Dr. Kamal Ali, an assistant dean and Director of Multicultural Development at WSC.

He had heard about the F.B.I inquiry from a colleague of his he would like to keep anonymous. "Homeland Security has asked questions about one Lebanese student who wears the traditional hija (beaddress). Nothing has come of it, my colleague was surprised that the FBI was making inquires into a Westfield student."

While the war on terror continues to be fought overseas and here in Westfield State's own backyard, Rahme Eldada sits by herself in a corner of the Campus Center.

Graphs, charts, a calculator, pens,

Patriot-Page 2

Academic Affairs overhaul

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

The Academic Affairs Department of Westfield State College (WSC) is seeking the advice of faculty, students and two professionals as they decide whether or not any changes are needed in the way they do business.

The Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Joan Rasool, said the informal review is being done because of a request from President Carwein. Rasool said the current system has been in place for 25 years. "Is this the best structure we can have?" asked Rasool.

Right now about 30 depart-

Rasool-Page 2

Due to deadline constraints 'The Voice' will have full coverage of the events following the Red Sox World Series win in next weeks issue.

The best election coverage you'll find this side of Ely

pgs. 15-18

Inside

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A&E	Page 10-12
Election	Page 15-18
Comics	Page 19

Patriot

and a ruler clutter the small table while Eldada does some homework for a math course she is taking. Eldada is a math major who is, "Trying to figure out what to do with it. I definitely don't want to teach," she said.

In that sense Eldada isn't much different from most college students that don't know what they want to do after school, what sets her apart is the head cover she wears as part of her religion, Islam.

Dr. Kamal Ali considers Eldada a niece. Though the two are not directly related Eldada said Ali was a very close friend of her family. Both follow Islam.

"To be practical about this, Homeland Security has a job to do."

Dr. Kamal Ali

"I kind of look like a Muslim," said Ali who wears clothes that identify him as Muslim, the long button-up shirt and the hat. He is also the VP of the Western Massachusetts Society of Muslims. He converted when he was 22 years old.

Ali does a lot of traveling abroad, countries like Senegal, Mali, and Saudi Arabia. "The biggest problem I have is getting back into the United States."

Ali said he was stopped one time in a New York airport. He said his name had come up on a watch list and was left in the dark by the security guards as they kept him waiting. "I said, 'What's the problem,' I don't mind being held up, it shows they're doing their job," said Ali.

Eldada was born in Saudi Arabia but had lived in Beirut, Lebanon before her family moved to South Hadley in October of 2000. She is a permanent resident of the United States. "It's not bad (here)," said Eldada.

Eldada was close with another Lebanese student attending WSC. "She got married past summer," said Eldada adding that now they don't have enough time to see each other.

"I'm a very shy person," said Eldada who possesses an unassuming soft voice. She said there is one other she is friends with.

In high school Eldada had to deal with name calling, "in college its different, people don't bother you so much," she said.

Over this past summer Eldada was wearing the traditional dress of Muslim women, a long dress that doesn't give any shape to the female body.

She had to stop wearing it though. She said she got too many looks. "I was busy being upset than actually worrying about school work," said Eldada.

Eldada's movements are quiet. She wears a head covering and modest clothing in accordance with her religion. "In Islam, it's like a diamond (referring to the female body) when you have a diamond you put in a really nice covering. It's for one person to see when they are married, its not public beauty," said Eldada.

When asked if he thought section 215 of the Patriot Act was a violation of civil rights Ali said, "I don't think so, to me it's not a violation.

"To be practical about this, Homeland Security has a job to do. I have to think that their intentions are honorable. However I know enough of American bureaucracies that operate under criminal justice that overzealous employees can go over the letter of the law, or interpret the law to their own ends," said Ali.

Rasool

ments of the college report directly to Rasool. "That is a lot of direct reports," she said. "The school is looking for a structure that allows for delegated authority, not layered bureaucracy," Rasool said.

An important part of the review process, said Rasool, is to receive suggestions from students and faculty on what can be done to make Academic Affairs better. "We want to find what processes feel ineffective to students," said Rasool who has already met with the Executive Council of the Student Government Association.

Rasool encourages students and faculty to stop by the Office of Academic Affairs in Parenzo to pick up a form to fill with suggestions on improving the structure.

The review will culminate with the visit of Dr. James Malek, the interim Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and Dr. Sharon Washington, Provost at Spelman College. The two will be acting as consultants.

Rasool said, "People may say this is the best system for us." She was unsure of what suggestions students might have for the reorganization. "If we don't ask, we don't know," she said.

Thumbs Up:

To three days without a riot.

Thumbs Down:

The water main break. Not that we have any control over it but it still sucks.

From the Editor's Desk

A shameless plug

It's official. After a few months of hard work, e-mails and phone tag, we have finally made contact. We now have a deal with the Worcester Palladium and the Webster Theater in Hartford, Connecticut that entitles our staff to free concert and photo passes of our choice.

A brain child of the summer, Matt and I decided that it would be interesting to see if we could make connections with these venues and see what kind of deal we could strike up in return for advertising. And by golly, it worked.

This year we wanted to spice up our A&E pages by adding a new section; we wanted to send concert reviewers and photographers to local concerts and write about them in order to spark some interest in our readers. We wanted to inform all of you that there *are* things to do in the area that don't cost too much and don't involve Beirut.

Both the Webster and the Palladium host shows all year, ranging from hip-hop to hardcore, and everything in between.

The Palladium, located on Main Street in downtown Worcester, has two floors in which they host shows. Downstairs is the most abundantly used, while the upstairs is saved for local or lesser known bands. Security is always pretty tight, so if you plan on "dancing" you might want to watch yourself. If you throw more than two punches, you're out.

The Webster Theater located on Webster Street in Hartford, is one quite large room that features a massive stage and lots of space to move. Unlike the Palladium, the Webster features a no moshing or crowd surfing rule. If you are caught doing either of these things, you are ejected, which I find to be wonderful. The Webster has a much different feel from the Palladium, but both are equally great venues.

I'm sure you all have noticed the spread we did recently for Skatefest. It was great not having to wait in a long line or stand amongst hundreds of others to see the bands. We got to go over the barrier and concentrate on the performances. We've also been featuring advertisements for shows in recent papers. These are for all of you to be informed of upcoming shows and hopefully attend.

What The Voice is looking for are students interested in attending a whole slew of different kinds of concerts. We will provide the tickets and photo passes if you can provide us with top-notch reviews and pictures. We would prefer to "employ" those of you who have had some sort of experience in this field, but if you're a newbie just dying to get involved, we can probably work something out.

What you can do is check out both websites
www.thepalladium.net
www.websterttheatre.com
And tell us what shows you'd be interested in reviewing or taking pictures for. They are all up for grabs. All you need is a love for music and/or photography.

The next concerts we will be reviewing are The Deftones, Simple Plan and Taking Back Sunday.

Feel free to e-mail us with any questions.

Emily Engel
Editor-In-Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

From The Voice:

As most of you probably know, our last issue contained a five-page spread of photos taken during the on-campus disturbance following the Boston Red Sox's victory in the American League Championships on Wednesday, October 20, 2004. After the issue's publication, the editorial staff was informed by several persons that they felt the photo spread made light of the event in which several students were arrested and several officers injured. It was not our intent to make light of the event or to glorify it.

The photo spread was designed to be representative of the entire event. This is why photos on the first few pages are celebratory in nature and those on the last few pages feature the aftermath. Anyone who was on the green that night will agree that this was what happened that night. An hour's worth of celebration was ruined by the actions of a few, and several students were arrested as a result. The Voice does not, and will not condone, support, or celebrate illegal actions taken by students.

As always, we encourage anyone who has a criticism of The Voice to write us a letter to the editor and have your voice heard.

The Editorial Staff

photo by- Jennifer Goldberg

Juniper park students had fun Wednesday, October 27, at the haunted house that is held every year. Many students from Westfield State College volunteer at the event to face paint, act in the haunted house and clean-up.

Inauguration

Westfield State College and the community of Westfield to come together as a whole. Sullivan also mentioned the city's involvement in the selection of Carwein for president of the college.

"We look to grow those relations [between the city and the college] going forward with Dr. Carwein," said Mayor Sullivan.

Carwein herself, in the opening of her inaugural address, said, "I am humbled by all of the kind words and introductions," also saying that she feared her speech would "pale in comparison." Of the event itself, Carwein remarked it as being, "first and foremost a special opportunity to recognize the best state college."

Overall the occasion was a lighthearted one. Those also in attendance to welcome President Carwein were student Matthew Curen, Class of 2006 Student Government President; Executive Officer of the Council of Presidents, Massachusetts State Colleges, Frederick Clark; Senator Michael Knapik; Chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, Judith I. Gill; Louise Hagan Lane of the Class of 1933; faculty, students, and guests.

Water

"It made the water appear a little cloudier and brown," Robie said. "But it didn't affect the quality of the water."

"I thought someone vomited in the toilet and just didn't flush it," said Carrie Furtek, WSC sophomore and on-campus resident. "So I flushed the toilet and realized it was just water."

The Dining Commons needed to have its back-flow preventers reset since the water was turned off. It was one of the many on-campus devices upset by the malfunctioning water main.

"It released so much water that it de-pressured." Charles Darling, Head of the Westfield Water Department.

Due to the lack of clean water, the DC also had no way to clean the used trays, dishes, and silverware.

"They served the meals on plastic plates," said Meaghan Chevalier, WSC sophomore and on-campus resident. "There were plastic forks, plastic knives, [and] plastic bowls."

They were only able to serve milk and coffee at the DC. Notices went up in residence halls urging students to bring their own beverages with them when eating there.

photo by- Cliff Ashbrook

Atom Marrote stands and welcomes Westfield State College's first female president, Vikki Carwein at the inaugration October 22.

Voice of the Week

Craig Goodridge

Role at WSC: The general manager of the DC

How long he has been working at WSC: two weeks

Favorite thing about WSC: The students

Favorite movie: Animal House

Favorite TV Show: Golf Tournaments

Hobbies: Golf

Favorite DC meat Roast Beef

Craig would also like to say that he is Delighted to be here. He has worked in food service for 26 years and his reason for continuing is the interaction with students, listening to what they have to say, and helping them out.

Compiled by Bridget Gleason

Picket

posed contract has been language that they feel infringes on due process and governance. The Union has been working under a constantly renewed contract that is two years old.

"We are protesting the governor and the Board of Higher Education (BHE). If they come here they support this college and they need to know the harm they are doing to this college," said Professor Julian Feron reflecting the Unions message that the picketing was not a personal attack on the President.

Professor Tom Gardner of the Communications Department said, "We are hear to celebrate out president and the institution and to remind the governor and the BHE that public higher education deserves support."

Those statements were echoed by Professor Vanessa Holford Diana of Women's Studies and English. "Since we come from Massachusetts we are supposed to ride on the laurels of private institutions such as Harvard and Wesley instead of investing in state colleges."

Massachusetts ranked forty-ninth in the country for state spending of public higher education. This, according to Diana reflects Governor Mitt Romney's refusal to commit to Higher Education.

Gardner said that Romney is looking for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008 and that Romney "wants desperately to been seen as the one who slayed onion and what he calls special interests."

Those in the administration questioned why the Union was picketing the Inauguration when the Governor was in Chicopee just one week before.

"We don't have the freedom, time, to go around and lobby; because we work so hard and are underpaid," said Diana.

Language, according to a first year professor who asked not to be named, is not the only problem with the contract. The professor said that newly hired professors upon understanding how much less they are getting paid compared to peer institutions are looking for new jobs. He insists that they are happy here at Westfield but that the salaries offered are just too low to stay at Westfield.

Mathematics Department Chair John Judge said that the President has not heard the Union's message. According to Judge, who is paid 31% less than his peers, the Mathematics Department is finding it difficult hiring new faculty, "When we start them off with $10,000 less than others."

"I am immensely pleased," said Tetrault about the demonstration.

Voices Overheard

What are you dressing up as for Halloween?

Dan Vargas
Class of 2005
Business/Graphic Design

"Papa Shango."

Jason Young
Class of 2006
Mass Comm

"I'm voting for Bush for Halloween."

Miya Jones
Class of 2005
Mass Comm

Bobby Yarnie
Class of 2005
Business

"Free & AJ."

Nikki Bassette
Class of 2006
Social Work

"The 1960's model Twiggy."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

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'Make a Difference Day' has students clean-up Loon Pond in Springfield

BY MATTHEW BERNAT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Saturday October 23 about 45 students from Springfield Technical College STCC) and Westfield State College (WSC) participated in the annual "Make a Difference Day" by helping clean up Loon Pond in Springfield Mass.

Kelsey Ketchenson, 22, of the WSC chapter of Masspirg's Water Watch said it was one of the group's bigger cleanups.

Students hauled, "At least 6 shopping carts, there was a refrigerator we couldn't get out, we go the door off and a million tires," from the water said Ketchenson. "Someone found a picnic table submerged, lots of beer cans, potato chips," said Ketchnson.

Loon Pond is part of a conservation area said Ketchenson, "So it's supposed to be pretty pristine."

Ketchenson said there were a lot of people willing to go into the pond in the waders that were provided.

Upcoming MASSpirg has a press conference planned on the dangers of chemical compound perchloreight. It is a salt and very combustible, being used in things such as rocket fuel and fireworks.

Ketchenson said the danger comes when it spills into water supplies. The compound affects the thyroid gland and amounts as small as 1 part per billion. High amounts of the compound have been found in eastern Massachusett's communities as well as Hadley.

The press conference is set to run sometime in the second week of November.

Student Voting Raises Questions

BY JONATHON FINER
THE WASHINGTON POST

CONCORD, N.H.–Ryan Smith, a senior at Keene State College, thought it would be more satisfying to vote in an electoral battleground than in Massachusetts, the home state he shares with Democratic nominee John F. Kerry.

But at a voter registration event on campus last week, the 22-year-old was turned away by a town official who told him that the college identification and piece of mail he brought to prove he lives locally was insufficient.

"All I wanted to do was vote," said Smith, an undecided voter who said that Democratic Party volunteers standing nearby eventually persuaded the official to process his forms. "It left me wondering whether all the hassle was worth it."

Reports of college students being discouraged from registering by local officials in a host of college towns are growing more common in the Granite State, where Kerry and President Bush are locked in a tight race. The issue of student eligibility has also been a source of contention in other states, including Virginia, Texas and Maine.

Democrats allege a systematic program of "scare tactics" designed to suppress turnout among one of their key constituencies. Republicans say they will be monitoring out-of-staters at the polls on Nov. 2 to ensure that state election laws designed to prevent voter fraud are enforced.

Unlike most states, New Hampshire, which Bush won by 7,211 votes in 2000, allows voters to register on Election Day. Assistant Attorney General Orville "Bud" Fitch II and Secretary of State William Gardner held a news conference here Tuesday to explain the rules pertaining to college students from outside the state.

The session was requested by Carl Pope, executive director of the environmental group Sierra Club, who said that while visiting the University of New Hampshire at Durham on Monday, students told him of problems they encountered while trying to register.

"To vote is the crown jewel of democracy, and we don't want anyone taking advantage of it on either side," Gardner said.

The Republican-dominated legislature passed a law last year that requires people whose identification indicates they are from out-of-state to sign an affidavit that shifts their "domicile" to New Hampshire before they can register to vote.

> **"To vote is the crown jewel of democracy, and we don't want anyone taking advantage of it on either side."**
>
> **-William Gardner**
> **Secretary of State**

Election officials say the new law is intended to clarify voter eligibility and bar people from voting in multiple states. But Republican legislative leaders have said they also hope it will prevent out-of-towners from exercising too much influence over state politics.

An informational posting on a state election Web site advises college students that changing their domicile requires them to reregister their cars within 60 days and to apply for a new driver's license. It also warns that, in some instances, health and auto insurance coverage, tax status and scholarships could be affected.

Democrats have called the new law the "Voter Intimidation Act" and have been reminding students that they can easily change their domicile back after the election. "The consequences they describe, such as for financial aid and so forth, apply only to a small fraction of students," said Judy Reardon, a senior adviser with the Kerry campaign here.

Jayne Millerick, chairwoman of the Republican State Committee, said, "We want everyone to vote who can legally do so, but they are doing students a disservice by not informing them of their obligations."

What Went Wrong With Ashlee Simpson on 'SNL'?

BY RASHOD D. OLLISON
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Somebody goofed and, after the lip-syncing went south, Ashlee Simpson wasn't about to take the blame. At first, anyway.

She faulted the band. Geffen Records, her label, pointed to a computer glitch. Her dad blamed a scratchy throat. Finally, Simpson admitted that the chance to perform before a national audience – and really nail it – was too precious to leave to chance.

In the end, though, the blame likely falls as much to the pressure to be perfect, to match the complex choreography of a video while performing live on stage. Which is why those who know show business may have felt embarrassed or sad for Simpson, but not surprised at the "Saturday Night Live" gaffe.

That night, as Simpson was poised to "sing" the title cut to her double-platinum debut, "Autobiography," the vocals to a different song were heard, while Simpson held the microphone at her side. Caught off guard, the performer improvised a few odd dance steps, then left the stage as NBC cut to a commercial.

The Internet and radio airwaves went wild. The morning after the "SNL" faux-pas, Simpson's official Web site was inundated with thousands of posts, many of them mean-spirited.

"When I saw the Ashlee Simpson thing, I felt bad for her because she can sing and she's a nice person," says Kid Kelly, senior director of pop programming at Sirius Satellite Radio. "I think it's being overblown. I think because she's young and d[illegible] don't know what to do, it drew a lot of attention to it. The Irish jig portion made it look bizarre."

So, what went wrong Saturday?

"I feel se bad. My band started playing the wrong song," Simpson told the "SNL" audience at the close of the show. She had performed her smash hit "Pieces of Me" earlier in the show without a hitch. It was the vocals from that song, heard by the audience, that gave her away.

Then her dad gave up the goods.

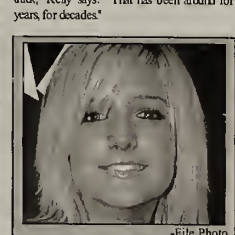
Joe Simpson, the singer's manager-father, said his daughter's voice was hoarse because of acid reflux disease. "Just like any artist in America, she has a backing track that she pushes so you don't have to hear her croak through a song on national television," he told Ryan Seacrest on Los Angeles radio station KIIS-FM.

And the 19-year-old pop star came clean in a statement Sunday, saying her voice was too worn to sing live, but that she needed to appear anyway.

"I can't cancel something like 'SNL,'" she said on her Web site. "You and I know that even if I synced on it or not, I'd still be seen by millions, maybe a few more fans."

Many pop stars, like Simpson, feel they have no choice but to seek vocal enhancement. Since the advent of MTV and other video music channels, pop audiences have been fed elaborate videos thick with jaw-dropping effects, awesome choreography, fabulous clothes, marvelous bodies. And the same level of perfection is expected to extend beyond the video set to the concert stage." So if Britney Spears, Janet Jackson or Madonna se unds shill and flat without a backing track, fans won't pay up to $300 for a concert ticket. Audiences want attitude, gravity-defying dance moves, skimpy outfits and freakishly flat stomachs.

"To replicate the recording as close as possible in a show, you have to have a backing track," Kelly says. "That has been around for years, for decades."



-File Photo
Singer Ashlee Simpson was performing on Saturday Night Live when and audio mix up gave fans a reason to believe she lip-synes during her live shows.

Air Force Pilot First to Return to Flight

BY VINCENT P. BZDEK
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON–Whenever Lt. Col. Andrew Lourake visits Ward 57 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he takes along a sheaf full of stories to buck up service members who have lost limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One story describes a World War II pilot who lost both legs and went on to become Britain's fourth-best ace. Another tells of a U.S. soldier who returned to active duty with his mortar platoon just six months after losing his foot in a mine blast on a Baghdad highway. Another tells of a sergeant who lost a leg in Afghanistan and went on to graduate from the Army's paratrooper school, the first to do so with a prosthetic leg.

This week, Lourake added his own story to the sheaf.

After six earthbound years, he returned to the wild blue with a three-hour flight over Washington as pilot of Air Force Two, becoming the Air Force's first above-the-knee amputee pilot.

"If you're wounded in battle, your military career is no longer over, and I'm proof," Lourake said at a celebration Tuesday after landing at Andrews Air Force Base.

He came out of the C-20, a military version of the commercial Gulfstream, waving an American flag to the cheers and whoops of a crowd of several hundred, many of whom were amputees Lourake has mentored in the past few years. As his wife, Lisa, sprayed him with champagne, several members of the crowd held up placards spelling out "ANDREW RULES", others waved artificial limbs in tribute.

"He's got the biggest heart anyone ever had," said Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf, who lost a leg in a roadside bombing in Iraq this year. Metzdorf said Lourake's visits made a huge difference when he was recoperating at Walter Reed.

"He gave us inspiration and support and made us want to get back to active duty," Metzdorf said.

Lourake, 43, will return to his duties as a special air missions pilot for the 99th Airlift Squadron at Andrews, flying the first lady, the vice president and other dignitaries around the globe.

His commanding officer, Brig. Gen. David "Scott" Gray, said it had been a long journey with lots of obstacles, "but nothing too tall or wide for Andrew."

"By the sheer force of his personality, Andrew has set a precedent for many others," Gray said.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz promised the assembled other wounded members of the military the same commitment if they want to get back to active duty.

Many amputees who have fought their way back to active duty in the Army have complained about the discrimination they feel from able-bodied soldiers, but Lourake had nothing but praise for his branch.

"The Air Force has been nothing less than astonishing in their support of me. Many people think that what I have accomplished in recent years is a big deal. I don't," he said. It just took "countless hours of physical therapy, thousands of pounds of paperwork and hundreds and hundreds of hours of friendship."

Though some military pilots have flown again after below-the-knee amputations, Lourake is the first to fly with a prosthetic that includes an artificial knee.

It's a knee that is nearly as sophisticated as the planes Lourake flies. His $43,000 "C-Leg' is the world's first microprocesser-assisted "intelligent prosthesis," a leg whose sensors adjust the swing speed and flexibility of its hydraulic knee 50 times a second to accommodate Lourake's every movement. Lourake's return to the skies comes nearly six years to the day since he mangled his left leg in a motocross accident. A hospital-borne staph infection seeped into the bone and, after 18 surgeries, forced Lourake to choose between losing his leg or enduring years of pain and more operations. The main reason Lourake decided to have the limb cut off was the faint chance of returning to the cockpit.

"I asked Andy why he wanted to fly again after he lost his leg, and he told me, 'Because it's what I do,'" Gray said.

As Lourake posed for photos in front of his plane after doing what he does, a small blue sign was visible in the cockpit window. It was a handicapped parking sticker.

-Photo by Michael Williamson
Lt Col. Andrew Lourake, hoists an American flag after landing his C-20 aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, making him the Air Force's first above-the-knee amputee pilot. Lourake, 43, returns to his duties as a special air missions pilot for the 99th Airlift Squadron, flying the first lady, the vice president and other dignitaries around the globe.

Jamie Foxx Probes Soul of Brother Ray

BY GEOFF BOUDREAUX
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD – Jamie Foxx walked into the old Ray Charles recording studios two weeks ago like he owned the place – or at least like someone who knew the hallways well enough to find his way blindfolded. He had done pretty much that on his previous visit to the studio, in June 2003, when makeup people sealed his eyes to help him portray the legendary blind singer for the film "Ray." The "blinding" involved an uncomfortable fake-eyelid application every morning for the three months of filming. For 14 hours or so a day, Foxx was in his own darkness. "It was awful, but there's no other way to do it. Ray couldn't just open his eyes between takes. You can't fake it," Foxx said, rubbing his temples at the memory.

Acting is faking it, of course, but in truly inspired moments performance rises beyond mimicry – and that is just the type of praiseciriculating Hollywood as Universal's "Ray" heads toward theaters Friday. The aura of the movie is charged, particularly with soul-man Charles' death in Los Angeles the same month that Foxx was filmed at the studio in the singer's trademark sunglasses. Returning to the session room on the eve of the film's release, Foxx said the intense role and his own fleeting relationship with Charles have left him with a jumble of feelings.

"This room is where we first met," Foxx said at Charles' studio and headquarters, which sits in a scruffy section of L.A. that makes its vintage facade as out of place as a silk slipper on asphalt. That introduction was in summer 2002 and, to welcome the young actor, the lights were switched on in the usually dark session room. "The first thing he said was, 'Ha, yeah, you got strong fingers,'" Foxx said of the handshake.

Meeting Charles was "inspirational, amazing" Foxx said, but it was also intimidating. Foxx wanted the title role in "Ray" but first he would have to pass the exacting standards of Charles by playing blues standards and Thelonious Monk compositions to the soul man's satisfaction. "It was a musical obstacle course," mused Foxx, who was classically trained in piano as a youth.

"I can play, but still ... we went back and forth that day. It was mind-blowing. It was spiritual. I remember I hit a wrong note and he stopped and he said, 'Now – uh why did you go and do that?' I said, 'I don't know.' He laughed and said, 'The notes are right there, right underneath my our fingers. You just got to take a second and find them.' And I knew he was talking about more than music."

The arduous demands of the role and the intensity of the material were a stern test for a star known for television comedy and for less-hallowed popular fare such as "Booty Call." Foxx is shifting to a new strata, though, after his acclaimed performance earlier this year in the thriller "Collateral," which saw him hold half the screen opposite human lightbulb Tom Cruise. "Ray" might be the sort of ripe, defining part that sends him flying higher at a sharp trajectory.

-File Photo

Jamie Foxx plays Ray Charles in the new film 'Ray.'

Before all this he was a young star of his church choir and a pianist of sufficient talent to earn a college scholarship that took him up and out of dusty Texas. Like most Americans – and especially like many black Americans raised in the south and near a pulpit – them usic of Ray Charles was elemental in his ears.

Asked which Charles song he learned to play first, he just scoffs. "That's like asking someone the first time they walked on grass. You don't remember it. It was everywhere. This is a legend we're talking about."

A legend that is beloved to America but also one that may be viewed differently after the release of "Ray," a film that will not surprise the world with the quality of its soundtrack but may shock some with its shadows. America might like Charles less and respect him more after seeing streaks of bitterness, complexity and reckless excess that run coonter to the beloved, smiling image of Charles.

The film goes back to the heretical young singer who arguably changed the course and texture of pop music with his mold-breaking recordings – his melding of gospel and its uplift with earthy rhythm-and-blues themes and attitude created what is now called soul music – and its greatest challenge was to find a lead actor who could match the incandescence of the real Charles. The piano skills didn't hurt either. It took more than a decade for the film to reach the screen for many of the typical and uninteresting Hollywood reasons, bot that lag time became a huge boon to the film. Had it got off the ground any earlier, Charles would have been shaking hands with the wrong actor.

"That first day he said to me, 'If you can play the blues you can do anything," Foxx said, repeating the quote in an imitation of the singer's unmistakable, pinched, cool-cat speaking voice. "And we both just sat down at pianos."

The test, of course, went well; not only does Foxx star, but the early notices for his work have been laced with talk of Oscar prospects and "role of a lifetime" reviews. Foxx acknowledges that on some level he feels that "this is my big shot right now." It's clear he and the film's director, Taylor Hackford ("An Officer and a Gentleman," "Proof of Life"), and screenwriter James L. White did not take the task of portraying Charles lightly.

The darkness that Charles endured since he was 7 was unnerving for Foxx even if intellectually he knew it could be peeled away at the end of the day. "It was like getting claustrophobia in your own body. I would get really anxious and feel like I was trapped. ... If you close your eyes for a few minutes you still know where things are around you, bot then after a few hours you lose everything."

The sensory jolt led to more than a few bad falls on the set and the occasional growling stomach ("They would call lunch and everyone would go and I'd still be sitting there, like, 'Helio?'"). Foxx said he channeled the extreme feelings and the physical nuances into the performance. He augmented that with his studies of Charles as a locomotive specimen – not only the head-bobbing grin and arm-hugging posture bot also the clipped, heel-tapping gait and shuffle of the singer, who used to gauge the distance of walls and furniture by the echoes of his footfalls.

In the darkness too, Foxx found that even as a trained musician he had never heard music the way he heard it in the void. "The music seemed so big after a while." Perhaps that explains why Charles himself devoted a good chonk of his philanthropy to the deaf and hearing-impaired. The singer said often that music is what got him through the day and, more desperately, through the night.

"In this movie I tried to play Charles' music throughout his whole life, the good and the bad, the triumphant and his downfalls, his recoveries," Foxx said. Foxx shed 40 poonds for the role and would be hard to recognize for any "Collateral" viewer who didn't notice the credits. David Ritz, the author who collaborated with Charles often and notably, has seen the film twice and both times found himself in awe of Foxx's on-screen creation of Charles.

"As someone who knew Ray for nearly 30 years, someone who worked with him day and night on his autobiography and studied him as closidy as I could, I was amazed how Jamie captures not only his quirky talk, his quirky gestures and his idiosyncratic personality bor Ray's powerful physicality as well," Ritz said. "Jamie's phenomenal. He found a way inside Ray's soul."

Clinton Returns to Campaign Trail for Kerry

BY VANESSA WILLIAMS
JOIIN F. HARRIS
THE WASHINGTON POST

PHILADELPHIA–A massive legion of Democratic faithful packed several square blocks downtown Monday as former president Bill Clinton made a late and long-awaited return to the campaign trail with a rousing endorsement of Democratic nominee John F. Kerry.

Clinton's physical frame was notably thinner, and his voice, too, seemed to be showing the signs of a slow recovery from heart surgery last month. The raspy exhortations were familiar but weaker, as the 42nd president compared his record on jobs with that of the 43rd president, and pledged that Kerry would revive Democratic policy successes of the 1990s.

Four years after being effectively banished from campaigning by the 2000 Democratic nominee, Al Gore, Clinton beamed with obvious delight at being put to work this time. He and Kerry stood side by side amid roars from partisans.

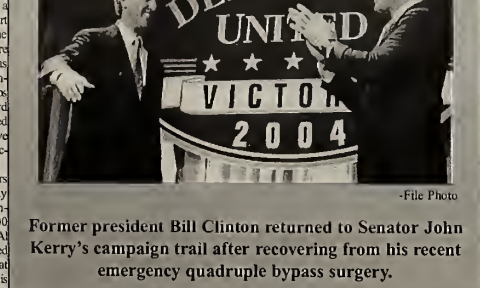
"If this isn't good for my heart, I don't know what is," Clinton said. "From time to time, I have been called the Comeback Kid. In eight days, John Kerry's going to make America the Comeback Country."

Kerry's campaign regards Clinton as a potent tool for sparking enthusiasm and encouraging voter turnout among Democratic base voters. In recent days, Kerry strategists have been trying to balance multiple requests from battleground state operatives for his presence, against the limitation that Clinton's still-frail physical condition cannot accommodate a hectic schedule with several stops in a day.

Clinton flew late Monday afternoon to Florida–where Gore was also campaigning, and urging Democrats not to forget the 2000 election controversy there. Clinton will be making appearances in the coming days in New Mexico and Nevada, Kerry operatives said.

His most dramatic appearance, however, will come on Sunday when he returns to his native Arkansas, concluding with a rally in Little Rock or Pine Bluff that evening. Arkansas went decisively for President Bush in 2000, but recent poll's have shown the race tightening there.

Clinton's health scare–an emergency quadruple bypass followed a diagnosis of dangerously blocked arteries–has added an element of drama to these appearances. A Philadelphia fire department spokesman estimated the crowd at around 80,000, although some news organizations placed the number lower. In either event, it would be among the largest crowds Clinton has ever addressed in the United States, although he appeared before larger assemblages overseas.



-File Photo

Former president Bill Clinton returned to Senator John Kerry's campaign trail after recovering from his recent emergency quadruple bypass surgery.

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(Next to Westfield Bank)

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Sundays:
9:30a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OPINION

Letter to the Editors

To the Editors:
Dear Ms. Big Shot,

I must say, I read your article every week, not because I think you are a good journalist, but because you tend to rant and moan about everything on campus. It's quite aggravating that you always have SOMETHING to say about EVERYTHING. Here's some advice for you: SHUT UP!! No one wants to hear what you have to say. Yes, I agree that baseball fever has taken over the campus, and that people act stupid when they are gathered in crowds. However, calling everyone there "a bunch of pathetic excuses for college students..." was uncalled for. Who do you think you are? Some righteous bitch that is better than everyone here? I think not. I think you just decided that you can't get guys so you decide to trash on them instead. That no one on this campus likes you, so you decide that you are going to degrade all of us in your articles. Well screw you kid. No one on this campus wants to hear what you have say. It's definately a good way to make friends though, just tell everyone on campus that they are pathetic, and then make fun of the girls that actually "flashed" the crowd.

Talk about demoarlizing these girls. I mean, yes, they did show about 200 kids their breasts, but I think that was their own choice. Perhaps it was influenced by alcohol, but it was still their choice to do so. Your comments about these girls, "band aids on those mosquito bites" and "limp pancakes," were definately out of line. You are supposed to be a journalist. I think that you should have some class, and keep these comments to yourself. I particularly liked the comment of how the 200 boys there have collectively seen about seven real breats. Is someone jeaouls that we are'n't paying attention to them? You can say all you want about the people on this campus, but I think the real issue here is that you are jealous of everyone here, that you have some sort of envy of the other girls here that the guys are paying attention to them and not you. From my stand point, you aren't really a "looker" either. So you might want to try to get some guys with you charm or intellect, if that is what you choose to call it, cause you certainly are not winning any friends with your articles.

Dan "Cowboy" Colella
WSC Class of '05

To the Editors:

I'm writing in regards to the use of the wellness center and the new athletic facility. I recently went to the gym in ely to do my workout, when i went to use some of the machines there were signs on them that said something along the lines of "reserved only for the swim team from (then it listed the time bracket)." Now if I recall we just spent a butt load of money on building the new facility down the rd which, may i note that i have seen no one use, that is supposed to be used by the athletes only. Maybe I'm wrong, but the swim team consists of athletes? If this facility was built for the athlets and they're not even using it, then why cant students use it? Someone might as well get the use out of the equipment, becuase pretty soon the only people using thie new facility are going to be dust mites and spiders.

A Confused Junior

To the Editors:

There is a problem with people polluting our water. Only 2.5% of the water on Earth is freshwater, and only a percentage of that is accessible. People all over the world have diseases that have spread through unsanitary water. We, as U.S. citizens, are lucky enough to always be able to drink and bathe in clean water. This is fortunate for us now, but how long until there isn't enough fresh water available. By littering and dumping unwanted goods into the water we are causing a problem instead of solving one. People need to help out in river cleanups, turn off the faucet when brushing their teeth and limit their showers to reasonable lengths. Any small step will make a difference.

Candace MacDonald

He wants to be a Cowboy, baby

"So It Goes"
By Emily Engel
Editor-In-Chief

Never have I not wanted to respond to any of my letters. This has to be the first that I've mutilted through, and I know that this will not be an impressive column. I hope everyone but the person I'm addressing will ignore this, so instead, read my Editor's Desk.

Usually when I recieve letters about my column, I take them pretty seriously. I sit, read and think about what the person has said, no matter how many swears or insults are present. Honestly, it's not too often that I laugh out loud at a letter. But this one absolutely takes the cake for being the most laughable. Cowboy Dan, I applaud you. And now, I will pick you apart, slowly.

You start your letter by telling me that I have an opinion about everything and anything and that you are SO aggravated by it. Sweetie, do you know what an editorial is? No? Well, the dictionary definition of an editorial is "an article in a publication expressing an *opinion*." Hence me writing my *opinion*. It's what you're *supposed* to do as a column writer. God forbid someone have an opinion on events on campus that don't agree with yours. Understand where I'm coming from now? Excellent. Next week, I'll help you through that *Green Eggs and Ham* book you've been struggling with.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned while being on the editorial staff is to never, ever speak for anyone else. Your opinion is your own, and if you try to paste it on other people, you usually recieve a backlash. So saying that "no one" on this campus "likes" me or "wants to hear what I have to say" ... Ugh. "Wrong" isn't even strong enough to use. Just ... okay. Wrong. So should I have ignored those dozen or so people who came up to me in support of the newspaper and my column? Were they lying to me? Gosh, that was mean of them. I'd say that maybe 75% of this campus actually reads The Voice, and out of that 75%, perhaps 25% read my column and get mad. Out of that 25%, 1% reads my column, gets angry, and then sends me a letter about their frustration. You make up some of that 1% my dear. Yours was the only negative response I recieved, and you had no better argument then to whine and say "Ehhh, no one likes you, stupid!" And I'm supposed to take that seriously? Screw YOU, Toby Keith!

I loved the part where you basically answered your own question in a series of introspective, simple thoughts. And then justified what happened with the fact that these girls were "under the influence" and then told me to get some class. Well gee, beer makes EVERYTHING okay and justifiable, doesn't it? God bless that liquid.

So you think I should get some class, huh. I'd love to know your definition of the word, considering the girls you are defending have none whatsoever. I don't need to show my self to large crowds in order to feel special.

I think that seeing seven breasts thing hit a little too close to home for you. I give you one breast and half an areola.

I laughed the hardest when you said I was "jeaouls" of the fact that the boys weren't paying attention to me. Yes, my one goal in life is to attract attention from the drunken population of east en Massachusetts boys who refer to each other as "dude, brah!"

I'm terribly sorry that you don't consider me a "looker"; that tears at my heart like you wouldn't believe. Knowing who you are though, and seeing more than just a picture of your face, you certainly ain't no beauty queen either.

I don't think my boyfriend would really appreciate me trying to pick up guys with my charm and intellect like you suggested. It might make The Left-Handed Elephant upset.

Oh, lastly, if me *not* writing columns anymore results in picking up friends like you ... Plan on me being here forever.

Seeing as though I didn't recieve the truck load of letters I anticipated, I will assume that most of you caught on to my point, except for the couple of whiney freshmen in Courtney who called my actions "SO high school." This coming from girls who left there only months ago.

I rated the breasts to make a point: If you make a spectacle out of your body parts, you're open to public scrutiny. What happened to girl's respecing their own bodies? What happened to guys not being pigs?

You know Cowboy, you were right about something ... It was a personal choice for these girls to flash it all, but one must wonder what caused them to make that choice. Low self-esteem? Wanting attention? A spotted childhood? I would like an answer.

In closing, I would like to thank those of you who gave last week's newspaper a thumbs up. Keep reading, it can only get better from here.

Another thank you to the rest of you for the wonderful rumors that have been flying around, especially the one about me stating in my last column that these girls "deserved to be raped." You are all so creative.

I hope that some sort of lesson was learned. Perhaps next time you'll spare my vision and keep the knockers to yourselves.

The Voice

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THE VOICE
PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

No more excuses, just vote

By Dan Ward
Voice Columnist

I know what you're thinking: Why should I care? Will the election really make any difference? What have the politicians ever done for me? Well it's time to ditch the lame excuses and put a stop to our apathetic ways. This election matters, the leaders we choose will have the power to change our lives for the better or for the worse. Furthermore, it is our responsibility as Americans to excrcise a right that wasn't guaranteed for those who came before us; a right that is a denied privilege to others in the world.

In our cushioned world of college life the hardest decisions facing us are usually Bud Light or Coors Light, blunt or bowl, class or sleep, etc. But the reality is that a few years down the line things won't be so easy. Imagine yourself ten years from now, working a dead-end minimum wage job which, come to find out, isn't enough to support yourself, let alone a family. Your kids are going to run down schools because you can't afford to live in a town with high property taxes where the schools are havens and private schooling is the stuff of fantasy. You wonder how you'll be able to pay for healthcare and daycare and still provide food on the table. You'll work until your seventies and hope to never lose your job while your friends come home from Iraq, or the next disaster of a war, looking to you for help because the veterans have been forgotten. Then your parents will choose between prescription medicine and groceries and you'll have to choose the worst nursing home in town because you're already struggling to pay for your children's college education. Doesn't seem likely? Ask anyone from the working class what life has been like, you'll hear a similar tale.

But if you're not worried about economies think about this: the next president will appoint at least one, if not four, new justices to the Supreme Court. This means reproductive rights, privacy rights, gay and lesbian rights, civil rights, etc. could all be threatened. We could see a repeal of Roe v. Wade and the rise of death rates among young females because of the return of back-alley abortions. We could see an Orwellian society in which privacy is a thing of the past. And remember the 2000 election, all the recounts and dimpled chads, the popular vote vs. the electoral college? Remember that the Supreme Court had the power to declare George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore, even if Gore did win the popular vote.

Another excuse I hear from non-voters is that they know too little about the candidates. COP OUT! There's a thing called the internet, and I swear I could use it to find a picture of Dick Cheney in a bikini if I wanted to, so don't tell me you can't use it to find his plans for America. John Kerry couldn't make it easier: johnkerry.com! And maybe next time you're watching Blue Collar TV (I cringe), or the latest in gross-out reality shows, you can stick around for the Daily Show with John Stewart or, God-forbid, the news! Let's face it, if you can tie your shoes you can find information about the candidates.

The truth is elections matter. When we don't vote we add to a cycle. Politicians don't reach out to the youth because the youth doesn't vote, the youth then doesn't vote because the politicians aren't appealing to them. We need to realize that silence is acceptance, if you want to accept the way things are now and not make a difference, don't vote. If you think it's about time for some changes, raise your voice and help make a difference. In due time we can make things better, we can show politicians that they will be held accountable for their actions, that we won't be ignored, and that we have the power. Every four years we have the chance to insight a revolution, this revolution comes not in the form of treason or war but in our Constitutionally protected right to vote. No more excuses, just vote.

The 'L' word

"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice Columnist

"Liberal" is a handy, amorphous term that the Bush crowd likes to throw around. It's a fun little label, one that's sure to get the "conservatives" n'led up. Why, if you paint your opponent to be liberal, you can count on the fact that you'll, by simple contrast, be considered the conservative and win that section of the vote.

There is a large portion of Americans, especially among the Christian Right (the direction), who have knee-jerk reactions to the word "liberal." They imagine an army of bible-burning black lesbians in sandals, or at the very least associate it with gay marriage and banning God from schools. By contrast, liberals imagine conservatives to be dry old white men sitting in their parlors sipping brandy and reading the Wall Street Journal, and associate them with oppression and bigotry. Both stereotypes are partially right, and largely wrong.

A conservative, in the traditional political sense of the word, is someone wary of change. A conservative wants moderate, responsible budget handling. A conservative wants little social change, and whatever does come about happens slowly. This is sometimes good, sometimes bad. An ideal conservative isn't going to run out of control and crash the ship of state, but they might fall a little behind the times, which in the long run can lead to some pretty bad social conditions.

A liberal, onec again in the non-ridiculous Pat Robertson stereotype, is someone who advocates reform. Liberals championed civil rights in this country and believe in personal freedom. They are more likely to move for rapid, sweeping change in our system. This can be a good thing, because it swiftly addresses inequities and issues in our societies, rights & wrongs, and is more in beat with the ever accelerating pace of the world. The down side is that they can be a little reckless and not always see where their movements are heading.

Now, here's what I perceive to be the icky and oft-unmentioned reality of the Bush Junior crowd. George Bush Jr. is reckless, advocates massive social and constitutional change, but his desires are grossly behind the times. He combines the repressiveness that is the weakness of conservativism with the reckless short-sightedness of the liberals. He's fiscally irresponsible and politically dishonest. He wants things to change, sure. He wants them, more importantly, to change BACK. There's a word for that. It's reactionary.

As a Republican, one of the cornerstones of George Bush's son's presidency should be scaling back the size and powers of the federal government. Tell me, how's the size and scope of the federal government changed in the last four years? Do they have more power or less power? Do we can more freedoms or less freedoms? Does Bush II want to add a constitutional amendment (modifying the constitution = conservative?) bringing the federal government into the American family unit?

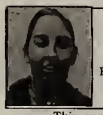
Now, I don't consider myself a liberal or a conservative. I'm not a Republican or a Democrat (and those two groups aren't synonymous). Oftentimes, I find myself agreeing with the liberal standpoint. I think the first amendment is an absolute right. I'm pro-abortion. The thought of prayer in schools makes me nauseous.

But it's far from a dogmatic adherence. I think affirmative action is racist and unconstitutional. I think adopting English as an official language (if, and ONLY if it's handled appropriately) has a lot of merit. Personally, I find the idea of labeling yourself as either "conservative" or "liberal" to be a bit foolish.

In the end, I believe that a mixture of liberal and conservative Democrats with liberal and conservative Republicans makes for a much more stable, reliable form of government than the domination of one ideology. Conservatives keep the liberals from advancing too quickly, while liberals prevent the conservatives from becoming too complacent or removed. Democrats (hopefully) prevent Republicans from hurting the little guy by cutting big business loose to do as it pleases, and Republicans (hopefully) prevent the Democrats from mishandling government in their well-meaning but slightly naïve idealism. Keep in mind, it was with a Democratic President (Clinton) and a Republican congress that we achieved a $236 billion surplus, and it was under a uniformly Republican White House and Congress that we've moved to a $422 billion deficit.

Me, I'm not liberal or conservative. I'm not Democrat or Republican. I'm just right. Constantly.

It's an American thing



"And Justice for all"
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

This year's election has got me burned out. It's only a few days away and the final hours have each candidate going into overdrive. One of the issues the current administration has been criticized for is the growth in the outsourcing of jobs.

Thanks to our friend Mr. Globalization, companies have taken the initiative of firing millions of people and sending their jobs to countries where labor is cheap. Dell, Microsoft, and Citibank are a few examples of corporations that have hoped on the outsourcing bandwagon and aren't looking back. Their customer call centers are now located in India, Pakistan, and Russia, where there is a large English speaking population that doesn't mind working for dirt cheap. The only problem with this is that Americans are losing their jobs and now have to turn to other less qualifying markets to earn a living. But fear not! There is a new job that is in high demand and the only qualification needed is that you are a proud American.

Companies have now enlisted the help of trainers to help teach the employees of the foreign call centers to sound exactly like you! That's right, the people who are hired are now not only required to speak English but sound like they actually come from America. Some are even required to be familiar with the American culture, like baseball scores, popular TV shows, and state nicknames. The employees undergo voice exercises where they are taught how to speak more like Americans to help callers understand them better and feel more comfortable.

Their accents are reduced and special microphones in the headsets lower their voices to ensure their native dialect is toned down as much as possible. ALTA is a company that specializes in the accent reduction, offering classes for the actual employees or for those who would like to become the trainers themselves. ALTA calls it their "train the trainer" program. Americans can be taught the skills necessary to teach foreigners how to sound and act just like them. ALTA serves companies like Coca-Cola, Sysco, American Express, and Nextel and company trainers are taught how to "provide an effective means of dealing with the many situations that arise when speaking with Americans"

If you are a student of ALTA's, you will go through a four step program that will assist you in becoming more American. First, you are assessed on your accent "problem."

You are then taught specific techniques to correct these problems and given homework. You are finally evaluated on your success to see if you have reached the necessary performance levels and given a job in one of the mentioned companies for an insignificant amount of money. Where do I sign up? Besides the fact that people across the country are losing their jobs to people half way across the globe, there is a certain homogenization that is occurring and is suppressing the culture and dialect of foreign countries. If you want the employees to sound like Americans, why not just hire Americans? Maybe you'll have to pay us more, but hey, we actually do know the baseball scores, popular TV shows, and state nicknames. Well, maybe not the last one. But Americans are exactly what you want: they're Americans.

Hate crime haters

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
Voice Columnist

While doing research for a paper I am working on in my Honors Composition class, I was surprised when I went to yahoo.com and found out that there is no longer any such thing (legally speaking) as a hate crime in Georgia. Discrimination and bigotry are very serious issues in the United States of America and they need to be addressed as such. It was because of "the broad language" of Georgia state hate crime legislation that the laws were thrown out the window, so to speak. The hate crime legislation was thrown out this past Monday, because of the language. What makes me wonder is that the legislation in effect prior to the legislation that was thrown out was seemingly clearer.

There are many different aspects to this issue that need to be brought into consideration. Originally, before the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd incidents, I myself thought that hate crime laws were needless. I reasoned this with "don't all crimes against a person necessitate some level of hatred?" I suppose the answer would be that yes, all crimes against the person necessitate some sort of hatred. However, what hate crime legislation does is protect people from having insult added to injury. On top of protecting people from insult being added to injury, hate crime legislation makes it fairly clear to the American public that all peoples' rights will be respected, regardless of any individual's personal beliefs.

It seems to me that instead of throwing the laws out completely, what Georgia's Supreme Court ought to have done was to revise the legislation and rewrite it in such a way as to eliminate said "vagueness." Hate crimes are not rare. While I was unable to find the statistics for hate crimes in Georgia, I did find out that a total number of 7,462 hate crimes were reported by 12,073 law enforcement agencies in 2002. The bias-s covered by federal policies include race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and disability. 7,462 is admittedly not an enormous number, but keep in mind that not all law enforcement agencies in the United States have to report hate crime statistics.

Looking down a list of different biases and the categories within them, it is clear to me that no one is completely safe from hate crimes. Some of the more astounding groups of people to be victims of hate crimes are heterosexuals, atheists, and catholics. From the incident involving Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming, it is clear that location is not particularly a safe-guard either. I did not know until I saw Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard speak at Northfield Mount Hermon that Matthew attended the University of Wyoming, which is probably about as Urban as Westfield, if not less.

It is important that every state in the country makes it infinitely clear to the anti-whatever people that hatred is not acceptable at any time, at any place. Getting over our hatred for one another is the first step to making the human race somewhat tolerable. If we cannot have love for one another, what can we have love for. So far, in our ten-thousand or so year run, humans have only showed the world that they will destroy everything in their path. From water to forests, from rabbits to elephants, and from "breeders" to "fags," we have shown respect for very little on this planet. It is disgusting that we cannot even have love for each other. However, people are people and unfortunately, there is no way to help that. Government might be able to protect us from the blind hatred that fills the world, but so far, largely in part to the republicans of our country, it has shown that it can not.

Candidates don't impress me much

"Marty knows... Maybe"
By Kristina Martinelli
Voice Columnist

Here's how I really feel. I think that if a candidate wants me to vote for him, he should work for it. Neither of the candidates did that. They didn't impress me and they had ample time to do so. Both of them have the money as well, it ended up being one big slam-fest. Instead of making me want to vote for them, each candidate stretched the truth, or vaguely mentioned what was actually correct, in order to get me to not vote for the other person. Has it really come down to this? Am I to expect this amount of "crap" every election. I certainly hope not.

In a country that is supposed to be the greatest nation on Earth, we can't even hold an election without putting people down, lying, and being just down right mean. If we were to do the exact same thing that Bush and Kerry are doing back in middle school, where everyone knew everyone, we wouldn't have made it. Correct me if I'm wrong, but weren't we raised to be moral upstanding citizens. When I turn on my television, I am subjected to unfit role models for this generation.

I'm not saying that as people, Bush and Kerry are bad guys, but why would you allow yourself to be portrayed as such? Both seem to be good parents, every family has its ups and downs. Mine certainly does. And what about their wives, I personally prefer Laura Bush over Teresa Heinz-Kerry, but applaud the fact that she stands up to the media. It is nice to see that we are not looking at another Clinton/Lewinski scandal.

I realize that I am saying some not nice things about our president, but really what I'm doing is expressing my disgust at how each person fights...and that's dirty.

As of right now, I don't think that I will vote for either candidate. I am going to vote though, I just want to vote for who I think can do the job right. I think that voting for Kerry because I'm a registered democrat (and I am) or voting for Bush because I'm a republican is ridiculous. What happened to looking at their resume and choosing the best person for the job? Are we so caught up in the campaigning that we can't step back and see/admit what's wrong with it?

Now don't get me wrong, I think that it's a wonderful thing to have a democratic government. I am excited about everyone having the opportunity to be involved with the election process. I just wish that it was easier for people, this time around, to say that they really can stand behind a candidate because they think they are a great guy, they're going to do good, and they can trust them.

'Red Sox Nation' turns Anarchic

"The Gospel According to George"
By Bill George
Voice Columnist

Note to the reader: This was written two days after the Red Sox defeated the Yankees in the ALCS.

Well finally the Red Sox are back in the World Series... but a young college girl, who would be turning 22 any day now, is dead. Worth it? If you just said "yes", scratch that, if you even thought to yourself "yes", then you don't respect life and ought to have yours taken away from you because frankly you don't deserve it.

After this tragedy, I wish we lost. I really do. I wish the Red Sox had a losing season. Or that we got hammered in game four and ended this whole ordeal. How can I ever look back on this amazing achievement in sports history or recall it for my children without thinking in the back of my mind that Victoria Snelgrove is currently not recalling the same event. If we lost game seven would there still have been a mob? More than likely. But would Victoria go out with the intention to celebrate and get caught in the middle of the clash? No.

But I cannot hold the Red Sox responsible. They are merely a sports team winning games for their fans. So, I know what you are thinking: blame the police. And it is true that the police should not be firing into crowds of possible college students with guns of any kind. Especially when the pepper spray balls they shoot are liable to hit someone in the head. Oh that reminds me, I forgot to mention the gruesome detail: Victoria was left dead on the sidewalk bleeding from her face, nose, and mouth after a pepper spray ball struck her directly in the eye. The police should not have fired into the crowd. The police should not even be allowed to carry projectile weapons of that nature. Shields and sticks should suffice. But let's go a little deeper, why do the cops need the weapons in the first place? Granted they shouldn't fire the weapon but at the same time they shouldn't have to need the weapon to begin with. The fans are who create that necessity. The police are doing their job so as to prevent more deaths from a violent entourage.

The fans are where the trouble starts. Everyone said we have the best fans in the world. The Red Sox Nation, as we are called. Well I think we can kiss that distinction good bye after creating an environment in which one of our own dies during a celebration. So what turns this joyous group occasion into a violent angry mob that throws trash barrels at windows, taunts police by throwing bottles and bricks, and pulls down street signs? The drunken (or sober but idiotic) young men (or less often women) who are looking out for nothing but their own entertainment and amusement, are mostly to blame. In fact, as you may have noticed, we got more than a couple of those here at Westfield State. Here at Westfield we manifested our "happiness" not in trash barrel throwing but in fireworks lighting. I almost got nailed with a firecracker that took a nosedive into part of the crowd. When I went outside after game seven I simply wanted to see everyone chanting and being happy about the game. I did not want to run in fear of my life.

We were lucky that night. I saw two people almost get trampled to death in the parking lot near Dickinson while the group moved toward the tents. What if we had our own student crushed to death? It almost happened right under our noses. Instead it happened to Victoria. She was just a fan going out in the street to have fun around Fenway with a few fellow fans. All they wanted was to cheer and yell and jump up and down. Then some "hardcore" fans changed the crowd's dynamic and now Victoria's family is left without their "exceptional" daughter (the word used by her father). Think about that and think about the quality of your life (whoever you are) the next time you begin to lead a crowd causing the members in it to trample one another. In fact if someone did get pinned down and killed in our parking lot, I'd like to have the drunken, pathetic, futureless loser who caused the mass migration to be the one who calls the victim's parents. Have him try to rationalize that one, "yes ma'am, I'm sorry to say but your daughter will not be joining you for thanksgiving this year because I was so happy that I got plastered and lead a mob in an attempt to destroy some tents. But they ultimately ended up collapsing your daughter's esophagus en route... but hey, how about them Sox?"

And what about the guy who was meant to cross Victoria's her path in the future in order to form a loving couple? That guy could be you or me. Or what about the son Victoria could have had that might have found a cure cancer or became a Priest or a social worker. This person will not be born could have become your daughter's husband or your son's best friend for all we know. But we'll never find out. Does anyone ever think about things like this? Or is everyone too preoccupied worrying about who is going to buy for them during the World Series? Next time you are celebrating with a group, take a second and think about your fellow human beings before you kick something or set something on fire. Let's prevent a similar tragedy here at Westfield.

Victoria all I have to say is, I did not know you, but I will remember you. I hope that where you are now, you are being treated better than you were on this

Arts & Entertainment

Political Flicks

By Bob McDonald
Associate Editor

During weeks like this one, the American public can be divided into two categories. In one category are the political junkies, like myself, who couldn't be happier to exercise their civic duty and to discuss all aspects of it. On the other hand, there are many of us who are tired of hearing about nothing but politics for the last few months. To take a bit of the seriousness out of the week, here is a top five list of my favorite political films. They all present comedic performances but they also touch upon important political issues that deserve discussion.

5. My Fellow Americans (1996) – This underappreciated comedy features Jack Lemmon as Republican ex-President Russell Kramer and James Garner as Democratic ex- President Matt Douglas. The two bitter enemies are forced to work togeiher to clear their names after being set up by the current president (played by Dan Aykroyd). The idea of partisans working together may be a breath of fresh air in the current climate. The film has some very funny scenes but also delivers some important messages about who we, as Americans are, and how our politicians should reflect that.

4. Bulworth (1998) – Warren Beatty plays Senator Jay Billington Bulworth, a man who has finally become fed up with all the of doubletalk of politics and has turned suicidal. After making a deal with an insurance lobbyist for a substantial policy, Bulworth puts out a contract on his life and then begins to speak truthfully about his opinions. This can be called one of the most honest films concerning race ever shown. It is also one of the few films in which the "white-guy-acting-black" shtick works to comic perfection. This film also features an amazing performance by Halle Berry.

3. The American President (1995) – A precursor to The West Wing, this romantic comedy features Michael Douglas as President Shepard, who has fallen in love with Annette Benning's Sydney Ellen Wade, an environmental lobbyist. The film examines the distinction between public and private life that all public figures must endure. The film is also filled with memorable performanees, especially by Martin Sheen, Michael J. Fox, and Richard Dreyfuss, as Senator Bob Rumson, the candidate who runs against Shepard.

2. Dr. Strangelove (or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb) (1964) – Stanley Kubrick's dark comedy about a rogue general authorizing a bombing run on the U.S.S.R. has shown up on many top ten lists throughout the years. This film takes a farcical look at the way that cold war policies dictate into practice. It features three performances by Peter Sellers, and the now iconic image of Slim Pickens riding an atomic bomb while waving a ten gallon cowboy hat. While the humor may be a bit dry for some, this is a classic film that all should see.

1. Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939) – It has been said that this film represents the most basic ideals of American political thought. The movie stars James Stewart as Jefferson Smith, an overgrown boy scout who replaces a recently deceased Senator. This Frank Capra classic is famous for its filibuster sequence, in which Smith defends himself from false accusations of misconduct by resorting to true American idealism. This film also includes a memorable performance by Claude Rains as the Senator that frames Smith.

The Tavern Gets Rave Reviews

By Kristen Espisito
Voice Reporter

At last, a new choice of restaurants in Westfield! The Tavern recently opening in downtown Westfield is a success. It is located across from Domino's. After hearing rumors of all degrees about this place, I decided to check it out for myself.

The Tavern has a clean atmosphere with different sections ranging from a bar room to a dressy dining room. The bar room is equipped with tables and TVs while the dining area is large with rooms off to the sides for different functions. The staff is extremely efficient and it is obvious that their goal is to make your time at the Tavern an enjoyable one.

Any type of diner will find not just one, but many entrees to choose from. Appetizers include the typical boneless buffalo wings and the not so typical fettuccini alfredo in the entrée section.

Soups and original salads are offered as appetizers and meals. Salad comes with any of the main dinner items.

Main dishes range from Italian specialties, to steaks, seafood, and sandwiches. The food is some of the best I have had in a while and for college students who are used to eating regularly in the Dining Commons will find their experience at The Tavern extremely pleasant.

Highly recommended is the eggplant parmigiana which has layer after layer of breaded tender eggplant in a thick sauce with a generous potion of pasta.

The Tavern is a tad pricier than Applebee's but well worth it. Meals range from about $12-$18. Appetizers were about $6 to $7 and desserts ranged from $3 to $4.

Each entrée at The Tavern offers large portions and will easily feed three. The prices are well worth the food, service and atmosphere.

When looking for a place for a good home cooked meal, look no further. Overall, The Tavern is a fantastic addition to the city of Westfield.

Dining without the Commons

Taste: ★★★★★

Price: $12-$18

Location: Westfield

Service: ★★★★

Specialties: Italian, steaks, sandwiches

89.5
WSKB
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REEL BIG FISH
The Webster Theatre, Hartford, CT
November 19, 2004

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The winning school will be selected for being the most creative in your proposal.
If you have any questions/ - email or call.
****
Rick Clair
Webster Theatre - Press-Publicity-Promotions
860-246-8001 x11

YOUR WEEKLY FORECASTS BY MADAME INEZ

Hello darlings, Happy Halloween to you all! Due to the overwhelming movement of the spirits this week, my ALL POWERFUL SEEING EYE has shown me many things, but readers beware, my predictions are not for the weak of heart...

Aries: Hey you...A.D.D. kid! Do me a favor OK? CALM DOWN! You're all over the place this week and you're freaking everyone out! I know you feel like you need to be extra productive this week but staying up all night building model antique cars doesn't accomplish anything but pissing off your roommate. A little advice for you: find and please start using that old Ridilin you weened yourself off of when you were thirteen, there was a reason your doctors insisted you take it.

Taurus: Your friends seem to be avoiding you this week and your self-esteem plummits so you turn to the only guy that's always been there for you, Mr. Jack Daniels. Unfortunately you're a lousy drunk and your desicion to drunk dial your missing amigos reminded them of why they abandoned you in the first place! I suggest that you take another shot and pour your crying heart out to the bartender because he's gonna be your only friend for a long time.

Gemini: You're having some issues with your dorm neighbors this week. By issues I mean that you disgust them. Let me clue you in...body hair is not sexy and hasn't been since 1984. So either cover up when you walk to the shower or shave your back.

Cancer: For you Cancer I have prepared a fitting limerick...
There once was a lonely cancer,
Who's dream was to be an exotic dancer,
Too bad their face resembles a rat
And their body's ridiculously fat
Perhaps an eating disorder is the answer?

Leo: In a wacky twist, you seem to be getting along wonderfully with people! This new, non-bitchy approach to life has won you many new friends...but that's about it! Since you've joined the good side you've lost everything you worked so ruthelessly to get. At least when you were a douche bag you had something to show for it, now all you've got is a fake smile and a few fair-weather friends.

Virgo: Hey, what's that on your nose Virgo? Is that poop? That's probably because you've got your head so far up your professors ass you can barely breathe. Compliments will get you no where Virgo and offering sex for good grades only makes you look like a whore. Put your clothes back on and hit the books, your sexual skills wouldn't earn you an A+ anyway.

Libra: Do me a favor Libra, build a bridge, cry a river and GET OVER IT! You've done nothing but whine about your lame sex life for the past week and no one wants to hear it anymore! If your love life sucks so much do us all a favor and shoot yourself...into a paper towel over your favorite internet porn.

Scorpio: Unlike the Libra, your sex life is rockin this week! Whips? Been there. Hand cuffs? Done that. You've finally found a partner that shares in your kinky style!! Unfortunatley they've also shared their style with most students on campus and somewhere along they picked up a new sex toy! It's called Syphillis and now you get to play with it too!

Sagittarius: You're beyond help. I don't even want to waste my time.

Capricorn: I see you've become interested in music lately...particularly singing. I hate to break it to you Capricorn but whoever told you that you had a good voice was obviously either deaf or has an extra chromosone. Before your dreams of a singing career get too out of hand let me rain on your parade: you sound horrible. I'd rather listen to a thirteen year old Jewish boy croak through his Torah reading than you sing anyday.

Aquarius: Hot damn! Have you seen your mom lately? How short was that skirt? How low-cut was that top? Face it Aquarius, your mom's a Grade A M.I.L.F. and it bothers you. No one calls for you anymore, they all just want to talk to your mom! Kind of embarrasing huh? I feel for you, I really do...but if you see her anytime soon could you have her give me a call? I wouldn't mind a go at her myself...

Pisces: Before you reach for the extra zebra cake Pisces, ask yourself this question: Is it really worth it? If you're going to eat another fat filled snack, why don't you save yourself some time and pressure energy and just tape it to your ass, cause that's where it's all been going lately anyway! One word: TREADMILL! Try putting the fork down and working out every once in a while, you might be able to see your feet by the new year!

Seen On The Green

Photo by- Matthew Bernat

Hey! Look at this fox! His name is Felix!
That's pretty cool right!?! Felix was spotted lurking around behind Lammers Hall this past Tuesday.

Do you believe in miracle (part II of course)

"THIS OWL'S HOWL"
BY JOHN DESCHENES
SPORTS COLUMNIST

This has onthing to do with hockey, although thinking about the USA win over the Soviet's at Lake Placid in 1980 still brings a smile to my face. This is about baseball. This is about the greatest comeback in sports HISTORY. Please read that last sentence slowly, preferably several times. The Boston Red Sox were left for dead when they fell behind the New York Yankees 3-0 in the best of seven ALCS, and for good reason. The Yankees are the most accomplished organization in sports, warning 26 World Championships. The Yankees are also known for their "ownership" of the Red Sox. New York has won 7 consecutive AL East titles at the expense of the entire Red Sox Nation. I'm sure the names Babe, Bucky and Boone also wring a bell, but I won't get into that. The Yankees had also beaten the Sox in the ALCS in 1999 and of course last season. After reading all of that, who could possibly say with a straight face that the Red Sox would comeback with four consecutive wins to advance to the World Series?

Answer: nobody. I can't remember anybody being optimistic after the "Boston Massacre," a.k.a game three. When I first found out that no team in baseball history had ever comeback from a 3-0 deficit, I was thinking the Red Sox were the only franchise capable of blowing a lead like that. Nobody would expect the proud New York Yankees to do so, would they?

As a loyal fan I tuned into game four. Obviously I wasn't real confident with Derek Lowe pitching for the Sox. He usually struggles against New York. It didn't take long for A-Fraud to take Lowe deep. Season's over, right? Well the game went on and the Sox battled. They found themselves down a run in the 9th with the best closer in postseason history on the mound. Season's over, right? Kevin Millar led off the inning with a walk, and then pinch runner Dave Roberts stole 2nd base (barely). Bill Mueller singled up the middle to score Roberts from 2nd, tie game. At this point I found myself believing. Some great bullpen work from Keith Foulke, Alan Embree and Curtis Leskanic allowed David Ortiz to send everyone home happy with a walk-off homerun. Okay, the Sox didn't get swept, but this is the Yankees. They won't blow a 3-0 lead..

I saw a sign in game five that really sums up being a Sox fan. It said, "Every time I think I'm out, they suck me back in." The Red Sox had their fans believing once again. With Pedro on the mound, maybe, just maybe they could send the series back to New York. The Sox gave Pedro an early lead by scratching out a couple runs off of Mike Mussina. Everything was going smoothly.

Fenway was rocking, and Pedro was pitching well. This all changed in the 6th inning. Derek Jeter, the all-time leader in postseason hits, came to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs. On Pedro's 100th pitch of the night, Jeter slapped a bases clearing double down the right field line. The 2-1 Boston lead was erased; it was now 4-2 New York. Season's over, right? At that time I was thinking we may have just seen the last of Pedro Martinez in a Red Sox uniform. A few of his teammates apparently didn't want to see Pedro's career in Boston end just yet. David Ortiz led off the 8th with a home-run, cutting the New York lead to 4-3. Kevin Millar then drew another crucial walk.

That was followed by Trot Nixon's hit-and-run single, sending pinch runner Dave Roberts to 3rd base. Exit Tom Gordon, and enter Mariano Rivera. The Sox couldn't possibly do it two nights in a row, could they? Jason Varitek greeted Rivera with a game tying sacrifice fly. The Sox were unable to score the winning run off Rivera, but at least they sent it to extra innings again. The Sox bullpen was again immense. Great work from Mike Timlin, Keith Foulke, Bronson Arroyo, and especially Tim Wakefield gave David Drtiz just the opportunity he was looking for. Ortiz delivered with another walk-off hit, this time a single. The game took nearly 6 hours, which had me looking for some Tylenol. Hearing "Dirty Water" one more time eased my pain. The Sox had put up a nice little fight at home, they didn't fold. There was on way they could go into Yankee Stadium and finish off this comeback, or was there?

Immediately after game five, Curt Schilling said he would be ready to go. This guy is amazing. I'm not even going to try to explain the problem with his ankle, we've all heard about it. He was close to not pitching again this season after game one, a game in which he clearly wasn't himself. If anybody saw him in the dugout it looked like he was going to cry. Under these circumstances, his win in game six will go down in Red Sox history as one of the best ever. I wonder how the bloody sock will be remembered; I say they send it to the Hall of Fame.

That is certainly where Curt Schilling should end up. Who was the other difference maker in game six? Mark Bellhorn! Without his three run homerun, there is on game seven. This is where manager Terry Francona deserves a ton of credit. Bellhorn was struggling big-time, and fans were calling for Pokey Reese (this guy can't hit his weight). Francona stuck with his guy and it paid off. Jon Lieber made one mistake in two starts, and Bellhorn made him pay. Who could forget A-Fraud's little school girl slap at Bronson Arroyo?

Both of these plays were controversial (only in the eyes of Yankee fans), but the umpires got the calls correct! This is amazing. Who would expect the umpires to get BOTH calls right, and in favor of the Red Sox? I was shocked. I was undoubtedly expecting the umpires to rule in favor of New York (again). Yankee fans responded by throwing baseballs onto the field.

Here is where I noticed a difference between Red Sox and Yankee fans. Red Sox fans only throw stuff on the field when the wrong call is made against the Sox. Yankee fans are so arrogant and full of themselves, they think every call should go in their favor. Anyway, it was good seeing the bionic man, Keith Foulke, close out the win by striking out former Red Sox bum, Tony Clark, with the tying runs on base (it's ok though, Tony was a good guy in the clubhouse).

The Red Sox found a way to force a game seven, but there's no way the Yankees would blow a 3-0 lead..

Terry Francona should have just picked out of a hat to decide who would start game seven. The Sox rotation was tired and beat up. The choice was Derek Lowe. This is a guy who almost never pitches well against the Yankees, especially in Yankee Stadium. He was also asked to start the game on two days rest, which is unheard of in this era of baseball. I thought the Yankees would kill Derek Lowe, so I was hoping for an explosion from the Sox bats.

I was dead wrong. Derek Lowe pitched the game of his life, right when the Sox needed him to. I hope you all realize Lowe wasn't even supposed to start a single game in the playoffs, he was supposed to be in the bullpen. Lowe wasn't happy with Francona's original decision and he took his anger out on the Yankee hitters.

He recorded out after out on ground balls, and he limited his walks, which is very important for him. It is time to give credit to Terry Francona again. Johnny Damon wasn't hitting at all in the first six games, and some fans were calling for him to be benched. Like the Bellhorn situation, Francona stuck with his guy and it paid off.

Two homeruns later (including a Grand Slam), Damon had paced the Red Sox to an 8-1 lead. With Lowe going on short rest, he was lifted after the 6th inning. Surprisingly, Pedro Martinez was the first man out of the Sox bullpen. I admit I originally liked the decision, but Pedro gave up a couple runs. He also got the New York crowd back into the game. Chants of "who's your daddy?!" were started by the Yankee faithful. At this point I figured here comes another Yankee rally. Just like last year.

Season's over, right? Pedro quickly put an end to that as he minimized the damage. Mike Timlin and Alan Embree finished off the Yankees and history was made. The Red Sox players stormed the field and celebrated in the exact same spot their hearts were ripped out just a year ago. Their season isn't over; it's on to the World Series.

The Banacos Ro ad Race has been changed to Sunday Nov. 21 @12pm due to NCAA Divison III Field Hockey Championships to be held at WSC Saturday Nov 20.

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Bored? Nothing to Do?

Play Intramurals

Have A Ball - Meet New People

Anyone Interested in Intramural Lacrosse (Men or Women)

Please Contact the IM Office in Parenzo Gym (P-169) (Right Under the BBall Hoop)

This is DEFINITELY HAPPENING - we will have an IM Lacrosse League.

If you have any questions please contact: Coach Rich Fului @ Laxgoal28@comcast.net

Anyone Interested in Extreme Dodgeball (Men or Women) Please Contact the IM office.

Dodgeball will be happening in the New Woodward Center.

IM Department is Now Accepting Rosters For:

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Soccer (M&W)
Billiards (M&W)

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

Cross Country Teams Capture MASCAC Crowns

FITCHBURG—The Westfield State men's and women's cross country teams both captured Mass. State Conference championships on Saturday, Oct. 23, at Fitchburg's Coggshall Park.

It was an impressive display of depth and "pack running" that gave the Owls the sweep. For the Westfield men, it was their fifth title in 10 years and their 18th championship overall in the meet's 33-year history. The Westfield women won for the first time since 2000, and it was their conference-leading 10th title in 20 years.

"That was the best pack running I've seen since I've been here," said 10th year head coach Bob Rausch, "We knew if we stayed together that it would be tough to beat us. We executed our meet strategy perfectly."

The Westfield men had no runner place in the top five, but they still won the meet rather easily. The Owls totaled 41 points as their first six runners placed in the top 12. Fitchburg State, second with 66 points, had the second and fifth finishers, but its No. 3 runner was 15th. Mass. Maritime, third with 71 points, had the No. 3 and 4 runners but its third-best runner finished 15.

"We actually thought the other teams would be closer," Rausch remarked. "But there was a big gap between their (Fitchburg, Mass Maritime) second and third runners. A big gap."

Salem State's Fabian Mejia defended his individual title with a time of 24:13 over the 4.8-mile course. Westfield's top finisher was senior Geoff Churchill (6th, 25:23), who earned all-conference honors for the fourth straight year.

"Geoff hurt his foot on Columbus Day (Oct. 11) and he just began working out on a regular basis last Thursday and Friday," said Rausch. "We were nervous if he would even finish the race."

Churchill was closely followed by identical twins Andy Messer (7th, 25:32) and John Messer (8th, 25:45). The Messer's are graduates of Westfield High School, and Andy Messer was the first freshman in the meet to cross the finish line.

Freshman Christopher Cuff of South Dennis was a pleasant surprise, according to Rausch, finishing ninth in 25:51. Senior Matt Frederick placed 11th (26:00), followed by sophomore Nathan Cristofori of Plymouth (12th, 26:05) and sophomore John Krzystofik of Chicopee (19th, 26:44).

In the women's meet, Westfield totaled 32 points to outpace Worcester State (43) and Bridgewater State (67). Worcester State had three of the top five runners, but its No. 4 runner finished 15th. Westfield, meanwhile, placed five in the top 10 and seven in the top 13.

Worcester State sophomore standout Olivia Patch defended her individual title with a time of 19:54 over the 3.1-mile course. Westfield State sophomore Heather Wenninger of Chicopee earned all-conference honors for the third consecutive year by placing second, trailing Patch by 16 seconds.

"Heather ran a good race," said Rausch. "In past races she had finished 45 seconds to a minute behind Patch."

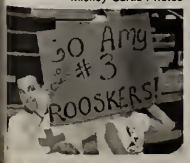
Rausch also praised the performance of fifth-year senior Aimee Worcester (Lakeville), who earned all-conference honors by placing sixth in 21:44. The Owls' pack runners included: freshman Kim Grant of East Sandwich (7th, 22:24), junior Marissa Blume of Westwood (8th, 22:34), freshman Amanda Baker of Webster) (9th, 22:39), senior Christine Byrne of Sharon (11th, 23:01), and sophomore Alison Wesolowski of South Hadley (13th, 23:09).

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM: First row, left to right: Sarah Clark, Adriana Gomez, Aimee Worcester, Christine Byrne. Second row: Amanda Baker, Linda Drohn, Mary Kate Gilrein, Jillian Slyva, Marissa Blume. Third row: assistant coach Jason Davis, Colleen Wimberly, Heather Wenninger, Caitlin Bates, Alison Wesolowski, Kim Grant, head coach Bob Rausch. *Mickey Curtis Photos*

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM: First row, left to right: Andy Messer, Nate Cristofori, Brandon Knox, John Kryzstofik, Andy Stmiste, Dave Estabrook, Chris Cuff, Bill Magdalensky. Second row: assistant coach Jason Davis, Matt Frederick, Jay Cunha, Geoff Churchill, Byron Baily, John Messer, Stephen Cole, head coach Bob Rausch.

As the fall sports seasons wind down, seniors on the Westfield State teams have been recognized for their contributions to the athletics programs. Top photo: seniors Amy Sivatik, left, and Beth Chapdelaine are presented gifts before the volleyball team's final home game last Tuesday. Bottom photo: students showed their support for the seniors, including Matt Gurley.

Mickey Curtis Photos



Litterst, Wolski Players Of Week

Westfield State College field hockey standout Shanna Litterst was named the Mass. State Conference Player of the Week, and teammate Megan Wolski was selected the Little East Conference Rookie of the Week for Oct. 24.

Litterst, a talented sophomore forward from Falmouth, had two goals and an assist in a 4-1 conference victory over Bridgewater State.

Westfield, 10-4 overall, earned a share of the Mass. State Conference title, finishing MASCAC play with a 4-1 record. Litterst is among the MASCAC leaders in goals (11) and points (27).

Wolski – a Plymouth South High School graduate - scored a goal in a loss at Keene State and a goal vs. Bridgewater State. Wolski also was named to the MASCAC weekly honor roll.

Three more Westfield State athletes were weekly honor roll selections.

In women's soccer, sophomore **Erin Lowney** (Fall River) scored the game-winning goal in a 1-0 victory at Fitchburg State. In men's soccer, junior **Ray Cheria** (Ludlow) scored two goals in a 4-0 victory over Fitchburg State.

And in football, junior fullback, **Mark Puchalski** (Whately) rushed for a career-best 126 yards on 17 carries, including a 46-yard touchdown run, in a 28-12 victory over Framingham State. The Frontier Regional High School graduate also caught two passes for 31 yards.

Football Team Tops Framingham, 28-12

WESTFIELD – Junior fullback Mark Puchalski (Whately/Frontier Regional High School) rushed for 126 yards on 17 carries, including a 46-yard touchdown, to lead Westfield State to a 28-12 victory over Framingham State.

Westfield improved to 4-3 overall and 3-2 in the Bogan Division of the NEFC. Framingham remains winless at 0-7.

On Westfield's first play of the second half, the 6-2, 230-pound Puchalski ran untouched around right end for his 46-yard TD to snap a scoreless tie.

The Owls were driving for another score two minutes later but quarterback Mike Lorenzano's desperation pass was intercepted by Framingham sophomore linebacker William Junkins (Abington), who retumed it 79 yards for a touchdown.

Westfield stayed ahead, 7-6, as the Rams received a personal foul for excessive celebration following the touchdown and their PAT attempt failed.

The Owls went ahead 14-6 with 1:53 remaining in the third quarter with a 12-play, 59-yard drive that was capped when Jim Fennelly recovered a loose ball in the end zone following a Lorenzo fumble at the four-yard line.

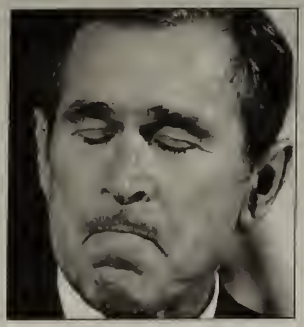
Westfield scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns on a 1-yard plunge by senior Don Jones and a 9-yard pass reception by B.J. Holleran. Framingham scored with 2:33 remaining on a 31-yard reception by Patrick Sheehan.

Led by Puchalski, Westfield compiled 399 yards in total offense, including 233 rushing yards, and the Owls had 24 first downs to Framingham's eight. Jones had 71 yards on 26 carries. Lorenzo completed 15 of 26 passes for 166 yards. Senior David Trueira (6 receptions, 49 yards), and Holleran (5-73) led the receivers.

The Rams were held to 144 yards in total offense, most in the fourth quarter against Westfield reserves. Framingham had 28 net yards rushing on 28 attempts.

Presidential Election 2004

The Candidates



President George W. Bush

Senator John F. Kerry

The Issues

Iraq

BUSH

On October 18, 2004, President Bush signed the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2005 to provide much-needed funds for our Nation's homeland security activities.

This bill contains most of the Federal Government's investment in homeland security. With enactment of the remainder of the President's FY 2005 Budget, President Bush will have nearly tripled funding for homeland security activities since taking office.

This bill reflects President Bush's commitment to defend America by making sure the Federal Government and State and local first responders have the resources they need to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize damage from attacks that might occur.

KERRY

Today, our leadership has walked away from more than a century of American leadership in the world to embrace a new - and dangerously ineffective - American disregard for the world.

They bully instead of persuade. They act alone when they could assemble a team.

They confuse leadership with going it alone. They fail to understand that real leadership means standing by your principles and rallying others to join you.

Abortion

BUSH

From a speech given by the President as he signs a ban on partial birth abortion.

"In the debate about the rights of the unborn, we are asked to broaden the circle of our moral concern. We're asked to live out our calling as Americans. We're asked to honor our own standards, announced on the day of our founding in the Declaration of Independence. We're asked by our convictions and tradition and compassion to build a culture of life, and make this a more just and welcoming society. And today, we welcome vulnerable children into the care and protection of Americans.

KERRY

Washington, DC - Kerry spokesperson Stephanie Cutter released the following statement

"John Kerry voted to restrict late-term abortions but only where there was a clear exception for life or health of women.

However, George Bush pushed through a different piece of legislation that failed to protect the health of women and that is what the Court struck down today.

When John Kerry is President he will appoint judges that are committed to upholding the Constitution not pursuing an ideological agenda."

Enviroment

BUSH

Clear Skies Initiative - President Bush will work to secure passage of the Clear Skies Initiative to reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury by 70 percent and help the states meet tougher new air quality standards.

Clean Air Interstate Rule - President Bush will complete the Clean Air Interstate Rule, which will require the steepest emissions cuts in over a decade.

Mercury Rule - President Bush is the first President to propose caps on emissions of mercury and he will finalize the rule that will cut mercury emissions from power plants by 70 percent. This rule will improve public health and protect children and pregnant women.

National Parks - President Bush will continue to carry out his five-year program to address the maintenance backlog in our national parks.

KERRY

Throughout his career, John Kerry has fought to clean up toxic waste sites, to keep our air and water clean, and to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other pristine wilderness areas.

Recently, the League of Conservation Voters called Senator Kerry an "environmental champion."

All information on this page was taken from the official websites of each candidate.
www.georgewbush.com and www.johnkerry.com

The Issues

Economy

BUSH

The choice for America – We can move forward with the President's pro-growth economic policies that are creating jobs, increasing incomes and opening new markets for American goods.

Or, we can go back to the tired old policies of tax and spend, economic isolationism and economic pessimism – a proven recipe for economic disaster. America cannot afford to return to the failed policies of the past – raising taxes on American families and small businesses will only hurt economic recovery and future job creation.

We must continue to move forward with pro-growth policies that are growing our economy and fueling the creation of new jobs. Creating Jobs – The President acted decisively to help create jobs and get Americans back to work.

Just one year after the President signed the Jobs & Growth bill, there is widespread evidence his policies have worked.

Since last August, over 1.5 million new jobs have been created.

The unemployment rate has fallen from 6.3 to 5.6 percent, below the average of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

This job growth is widespread – employment over the last year was up in 41 of the 50 states, and the unemployment rate was down in 47 of the 50 states.

KERRY

In America, a rising tide is supposed to lift all boats. But today, Americans are working harder, earning less, and paying more for health care, college, and taxes. Corporate profits are soaring, the government keeps expanding, but the opportunities for our middle-class are shrinking.

It's time to bring those opportunities back. John Kerry and John Edwards know that we're stronger when we create good-paying jobs here, not ship them overseas. They want to reward hardworking middle-class families with tax breaks, not larger bills.

They want to expand the reach of opportunity, not the size of government. And they want to lead an America where we work together to invest in the jobs of tomorrow.

The Endorsements

In our opinion, the war on terror is a paramount issue in the upcoming election. As a club, we do not differentiate between the war on terror and the war for Iraqi freedom. The reason for that is that Iraq is currently safeguarded against new and developing terrorist networks while their military and police forces are being trained by the US and the world.

The idea of a preemptive strike may seem foreign and unconventional, but a quick look into wars of our nation's past, as well as the wars of others, exemplifies that had a first strike taken place war might have been prevented. Unfortunately in US history it has taken a homeland or civilian attack to move our country to action. As much as it grieves us to accept, there will be losses in Iraq and on future infiltrations of terrorist countries. We salute those who have lost their lives defending the homeland from abroad, amidst a time where the right action cannot be proven, only felt.

This might seem a grim future: friends and family constantly overseas, challenging new problems in unfamiliar places. These men will never know how many American lives they saved on the homefront, and thanks to them neither will we. As much as it pains us, a withdrawal of our troops would be detrimental to the global war on terror. We wish to rectify the inadequacies of the Clinton administration and capture Bin Laden along with the many terrorists and dictators we have already brought to justice. In doing so, committing our troops is a necessity to demonstrate our unwavering resolve in the fight against terror cells. It is our goal to make any group whose aims are destructive think twice about the consequences, and not allow them to operate freely because of military absence and bureaucratic quagmire. We believe that President George W. Bush is the only candidate in this race who will fully commit to the goals and strategies listed above.

Our troops feel strong and supported under his current leadership, why deprive these brave men of the supplies and support they need over the next four years? Under the President and his administration we have brought countless terrorists to justice, imprisoned a tyrannical dictator, and liberated more that twenty-five million people from oppression and extremist dogma. It would be easy to quickly forget this, but President Bush is the first man in years to bring hope of peace in the Middle East by way of intervention, and not broken treaties or heated arguments.

Still, while the upcoming election focuses mainly on foreign policy, it is also easy to forget the economic and educational paths the president has set before us. In the 1980s Former President Ronald Regan provided the American people with enough money through tax-cuts to give us eight years of uninterrupted growth during the Clinton Administration (provided the standard four year economic turnaround during the first Bush Administration). Should George W. Bush be reelected in 2004, he will continue Regan's trend of trickle-down economics in order to provide future generations with the same growth and promise of the nineties. Furthermore, with the amount of children being influenced by the President's "No Child Left Behind" act, future generations of smarter, well educated children will continue America's traditional as the land of plenty by continuing to become the world's leaders in all areas of life.

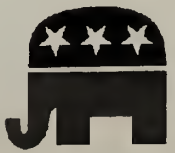
The Presidential Election of 2004 will have a significant impact on both America and the entire world. It will decide not only the direction of our nation internally, but also our nation's outlook on foreign policy and peace through action for the rest of the world. The message we and the President hope to send is one of unity: The world needs to act in brotherhood to eliminate the threat to nations and innocents around the globe. Our group has unanimously voted to sponsor incumbent President George W. Bush inthe upcoming election. Our group consists of not just conservatives, but also independents, liberals and progressives. This vote was made with an overwhelming quorum present. I hope our decision will help you make yours, be sure to vote on November 2, and God Bless America.

Westfield State College Republican Club.

The Westfield State College Gay-Straight Alliance officially endorses Presidential Candidate John Kerry.

We feel that because of his stance on tax cuts for all Americans, enforcement of civil rights for all Americans, and making college affordable for all Americans, John Kerry is the logical choice in this year's election.

Westfield State College PRIDE Alliance



Conservative students who are loyal to their values, rather than to the Republican party, will probably vote for John Kerry, as I will.

Despite his claims to be conservative, the president has acted otherwise. He has enlarged the federal government, increased spending even on non-security items, replaced local school decisions with federal mandates, greatly endangered civil liberties, engaged in a war for nation building, bungled the war on terror, and vastly increased the national debt. A liberal who had done all that, and lied so often, would have been impeached.

Bush is conservative only in pandering to corporations and the rich, and in supporting certain conservative social issues that do not interfere in corporate profit.

I endorse John Kerry, the more moderate of the two candidates.

Stephen Sossaman
Department of English

For years people have been talking about the death of the American dream. When this talk happened before, America righted itself and went back to making people's dreams come true. The dream is still alive. President Bush wants to kill it.

The Bush tax cut was supposed to help people. Rich people are technically people! On the other hand I don't think taking a trillion dollars from the working class and giving it to the upper class counts as "help". The war in Iraq was supposed to help people. Well friends, over a thousand Americans, dozens of allies, and thousands of Iraqis have been killed and the country has "improved" from a deadly dictatorship to a deadly war zone. I don't think that counts as "help" either.

If someone makes big mistakes like these as president, then that person shouldn't be president. And when there's a candidate like John Kerry, with his courageous record in Vietnam and his progressive record in the Senate, there's no reason to make the big mistake of voting for George W. Bush. Vote Kerry for the American dream; vote Bush for the American nightmare.

Michael Slachetka Class of 2006

The Musical Theatre Guild presents:

Guys N' Dolls

November 4 and 5 at 7:30pm
November 6 at 1:30pm and 7:30pm

Dever Auditorium, Parenzo Hall
For ticket information please go to the Ely service window.

Become a Star in the...

Talent/Fashion Show!!!

November, 10th
8-10 p.m.

Dever Auditorium
Parenzo Hall

Call Glenda Ramos @ x7642 to sign up or if you have any questions!

Presented by L.A.F.E
Latino Association For Empowerment

Sigma Tau Delta Raking Sale

Once again the tedious chore of raking your lawn comes around. But it doesn't have to be that way! Sigma Tau Delta wants to help you out!
We will rake your lawn for $20 (larger lawns will be a bit more) so you don't have to!
All proceeds will be going towards funding our conference to Kansas City!
Please help us out!
This is open to Westfield residents only

Please contact Katie (1-978-273-3595 cell) or Steve Bruso (x7509)

I'm voting for John Kerry because he values health coverage for more Americans and investment in education over tax cuts for millionaires; he rejects the proposed amendment to the constitution that aims to discriminate against Americans; he values alliances with other countries and respects religions and cultures other than his own; he will not further the last four years of attacks on a woman's right to choose and on international health care for women; and I trust him more than his opponent to fill the 1-3 Supreme Court seats that may come up in the next four years.

Dr. Vanessa Holford Diana, Women's Studies Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of English (campus contact info: vdiana@wsc.ma.edu 572-5687)

Attention NSE applicants!

Informational meeting schedule for 2005-2006 academic year placements

Dates
Wednesday, November 3 4pm
Thursday, November 11 4pm
Wednesday, November 17 4pm
Wednesday December 1 4pm
Thursday December 2 4pm

All meetings will be held in Ely 233

NSE applications can be found under "important forms" on the Campus Center website: http://www.wsc.ma.edu/campus-center/forms.htm

Visit NSE online at www.nse.org
Application deadline for priority placement is December 16, 2004!
For more information please contact Daryl Hendry, x5444 or Bonnie Clark,

Every vote should count

BY MEGAN CARLOTTA
VOICE CONTRIBUTOR

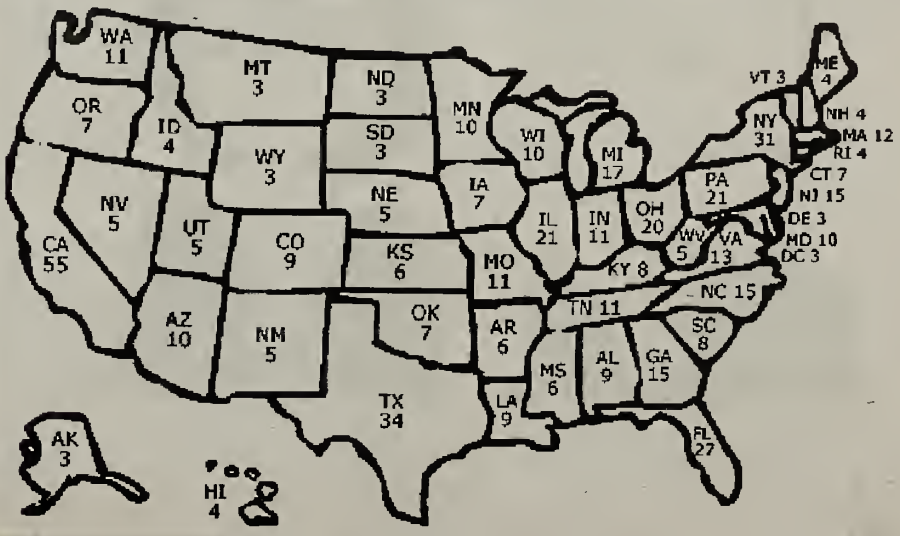
The upcoming presidential election has many questions to be answered. Who will be the president of the United States? Will there be a repeat of 2000? Are there flaws in the voting system? Now, I am not talking chads and dimples here, it's the electoral college that has stirred up voting controversy. The 2000 presidential election was the fourth election in the history of the United States that the candidate who won did not have the popular vote. The electoral college has been accused of being outdated. And perhaps now is the time the electoral college was abolished. With another close presidential race looming, the question is again, will the candidate with the least amount of popular votes be our commander in chief?

The electoral college can be traced back to Ancient Romans where the Roman Republic was divided up into groups of 100 and that group could only cast one vote. This essentially is what happens in the United States. A state votes, and the candidate in that state who wins the popular vote wins the amount of electors that state has. In the beginnings of the United States, means of communication was difficult. There weren't any telephones or the internet. Passing information between people took longer. The electoral college helped make counting votes easier.

However, now in 2004 communication between both sides of the country is immediate and with the outcomes of presidential elections becoming closer and closer there is no doubt that the voting system of this country needs to make a change. Each state has a different amount of Electorals. Massachusetts has 12. The electorals are based on size and population of the state, for instance, California has 55. Currently, a candidate needs 270 electoral votes to be voted as the president of the United States.

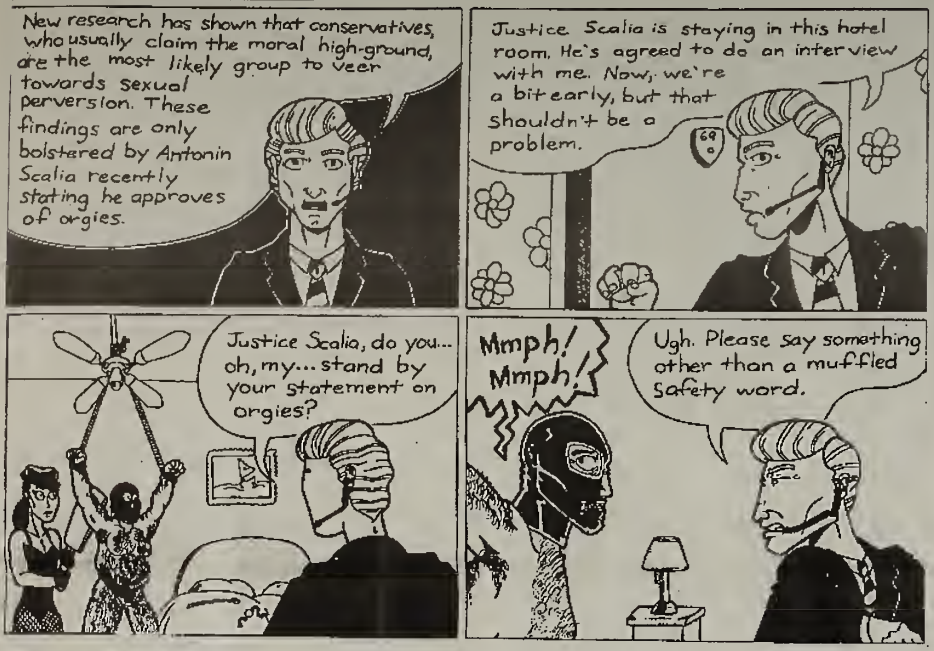
Recently, in reaction to the 2000 presidential election I have heard many people say, "What does it matter if I vote? My vote doesn't really count anyway." Looking at this, if this is how people feel, than a change needs to be made immediately. Every vote counts in the United States, for those votes say something about the opinions of the American people.

Electoral College breakdown



Pixel

by Sean Conchieri



This cartoon was sent in anonymously

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"Who is the genius who made darts into a bar game? "My depth perception is severely impaired, but I'd enjoy some sort of game. I got it! I'll throw sharp things in a cramped space!"

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page @ www.collegehumor.com

You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots* -- Check your local bookstore.

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks

11/1 - Fahrenheit 9/11 & Enternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
11/2 - Van helsing & Secret Window
11/3 - The whole 10 Yards & 13 Going On 30
11/4 - Godsend & Jersey Girl
11/5-7 - Hellboy & Enternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Movies Start at 8pm on Chs. 70 & 71

Campus Activites Board

presents

Coffee House

Live Music – Free Coffee
Ely Main Lounge
Wednesday – 8pm

WSC Athletics This Week

Good Luck to All Our Teams In Tournaments This Week!

Mon 11/01	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	MASSPIRG's Get out the Vote Phonebank - Ely 130 - 6:30pm	Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm
Tue 11/02	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - . 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	RAD Class - 333 Garden Room - 5pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30p LAFE Meeting - LAFE Room - 7pm
Wed 11/03	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool SGA Sponsored Legal Services - Ely 232 - 3pm	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm Weekend Programing Meeting -	SGA Room - 5:45pm CAB Coffeehouse - EML - 8pm
Thurs 11/04	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	RAD Class - Juniper Park Studio - 6pm	"Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm
Fri 11/05	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	"Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm	Class of 2005's Senior Night - Alcohol Services Available (21+ Only) - TWR - 8pm-Midnight
Sat 11/06	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight "Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm	**Sun 11/07**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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'Horoscopes' Return Read if you Dare pg. 11

Photo by Mike Cousellin

Broken Water Main inconveniences students pg. 1

Presidential Endorsements from Students and Faculty pgs. 14-17

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | November 8, 2004 | Issue IX

Campus to get bookstore addition

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Construction will begin next summer on a new bookstore in Ely. The bookstore will be in the space currently occupied by the Arno Maris Art Gallery.

The $5 million is left over from a 1992 Capitol Bonds Bill for Higher Education, said Assistant Vice President Curt Robie.

The construction will include an entire glass front for the bookstore. Ely's main entrance will be handicap accessible, and an elevator and new bathrooms will be added.

The new construction will make all floors accessible across the building.

Robie said the money was originally allocated for Parenzo but after bringing in outside consultants to access the building, the projected costs were estimated to be around $20 million.

Parenzo's renovation is now seen as a "long time off," according to Robie. The building received upgraded fire alarms over the summer costing sixty thousand dollars.

"One option is to demolish," said Robie about Parenzo. "Another is to gut and renovate."

Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations, said Parenzo is difficult to renovate because it is, "so important to everyday life."

The underground tunnels that run from Bates to Parenzo and to Scanlon are all used for storage and are currently filled.

Maloney said the new bookstore project will begin next summer. This will temporarily displace the art gallery for one academic year. "We will work on that so that the art is properly displayed," said Maloney.

Some of the costs will be defrayed by Follet, the bookstore supplier.

Ely has already upgraded the electrical systems and air conditioning in the building in preparation for the construction.

During the college's winter

Ely-Page 2

Eight arrested at Westfield State during World Series

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Police subdue one student during the Red Sox World Series 'riot' two weeks ago. Eight students were arrested during the incident.

By Craig Phelon
Special to the Voice

The Westfield State College campus police arrested eight students during a mostly jubilant celebration of the Red Sox World Series win Wednesday night. There were no major injuries or property damage.

One student was charged with unlawful possession of fireworks and disorderly conduct. The others face disorderly conduct charges. All the students were released on bond and were scheduled to appear at Westfield District Court today.

Arrests - Page 3

WSC Republicans campaign in Maine

By David Pageau
Voice Reporter

On a brisk weekend in late October the members of the Westfield State College Republicans Club spent their time campaigning for President George W. Bush in the swing state of Maine. Members woke up bright and early for the three-hour trip to Bush headquarters in South Portland. On arrival the group was greeted by a number of campaign managers ready to disperse information to the group and a large tour bus with "Bush/Cheney 04' in bold letters across the side of it.

After signing in, the group gathered into the tour bus to their next stop in Waterville. After arriving at the Waterville headquarters the members stopped for lunch while a campaign manager explained what they were going to be doing while in Maine. The three main events that the group would be involved with was door-to-door campaigning, phone banking, and making a presence at Colby College where well-known liberal author, Al Franken, would be making a speech.

Many of the members agreed that door-to-door campaigning and phone banking brought out both the best and the worst in people.

"I had a ninety-five year old woman yell at me," said senior Jeff Loja. "But many people were very receptive and were excited to hear from us."

Phone calls and door-to-door campaigning

Maine - Page 2

Some WSC students turned away at Juniper polls

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

WESTFIELD – Many Westfield State College students were unable to vote at Juniper Park Lab School Tuesday because of problems with voter registrations.

The affected students registered through on-campus voter registration rallies conducted by MASSPIRG, the Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group.

"They are not registered to vote," said Kathleen Armstrong, the Warden of Ward 4, Precinct A. "That's all I know."

"They told me I was about the fiftieth college student that could not vote because I was not registered," said Kim Smith, resident junior at Westfield State.

The actual number of students unable to vote is unknown.

On Thursday, Sept. 30 MASSPIRG held a voter registration rally on campus. Speakers included Westfield Rep. Don Humason and Amherst Rep. Ellen Story, as well as radio support from Mix 93.1 FM.

Many Westfield State students who attended that rally are upset with MASSPIRG.

"The school screwed me out of voting," said Doug Burgess, resident freshman at Westfield State. "And I'm pissed."

"The organization of the voter registration rally not only stopped me from voting this year, but it does not give me any confidence in other events the school plans," Burgess said.

Shortly after the polls opened, an anonymous letter was posted on the MASSPIRG office door located in Ely Hall, room 234A.

"The reason young people don't vote is because you don't register them when you said you did. Apparently a lot of people who registered here didn't actually get registered. What kept you from putting my thing down at City Hall, I signed up to be registered 8 months ago."

Students who registered to vote at the college received a letter from the Board of Registrars stating Juniper Park as the polling place. Other students did not receive this letter.

Doug Burgess called home when

Votes-Page 2

Pete's piercing adventure

pg. 10

'The Voice' reminds you there will be no classes on November 11, Veteran's Day. Thank a Vet and enjoy the day.

Inside

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Ely

break "The Nest" will also be renovated. "The Nest" is currently a coffee shop and convenience store. The convenience store portion of "The Nest" will no longer exist and all walls will be taken down and tables will be added.

Other renovations on campus include the removal of asbestos in the Juniper Park School.

The project began on September 3, and was scheduled to conclude on October 25.

Secretary Tina Howe said the asbestos removal is not yet complete and the only place where removal is occurring is in the gym. "We are still not allowed in the gym," said Howe.

"We are still not allowed in the gym."

Tina Howe
Secretary

Maloney said the project began when it did because that was the only time funding became available.

Also, the removal is being rushed along so the weather remains warm enough so that students can go outside.

Maine

were used as a means of reaching out to likely Republican voters and to remind individuals that their vote was very important in the state of Maine.

The following day the group piled into their rental vans and made the trek north to Skowhegan where a new headquarters had just opened up and needed people to help with campaign projects. The group did a lot of phone banking and leaflet dropping in the surrounding towns until they returned home at about eleven in the evening.

"I had a great time. Campaigning up here is something that is historical and we came together as a group that only formed about two months ago," said sophomore and vice-chairman Adam Shibley.

A number of members of the group went to New Hampshire to campaign for George W. Bush during the last weekend of the campaign.

"I had an absolutely awesome time. It was so much fun!" said sophomore Desiree Saloio.

Even though Bush did not end up winning Maine or New Hampshire, the group still feels that they did their part to help the president in these valuable swing states and worked well together for a common cause.

Votes

he was unable to vote at Juniper, and his mother informed him that he was registered in his hometown of Chelmsford. He was supposed to send in an absentee ballot.

"I thought they wanted to make the process as easy and painless for students as possible, as to get the maximum number of voters," Burgess said.

MASSPIRG was very active with this year's elections on campus.

They also co-sponsored the Presidential Debate-Watch series in the Ely Campus Center along with both the Mass Communications and Political Science departments.

During the rallies, many registered voters living at Westfield State wrote in their home address as their residence, instead of their school one. They were unable to vote at Juniper, but many could have driven home to vote.

But many students at WSC live far away.

"In America it is vital that every vote count and that every vote be counted," said Sen. John Kerry, during his concession speech on Wednesday.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Freestyle rap is becoming increasingly popular at the monthly coffeehouses held in Ely's main lounge.

From the Editor's Desk

What a rag

By the time you read this Editor's Desk Emily Engel and I will already have met with members of the Student Goverment Executive Board to discuss the direction 'The Voice' has taken these past two weeks.

About what we're not sure. I do know for sure that this year's paper is a lot different than last year's paper, whether it is better or worse is decided by you. We have recieved a lot of letters, and none of them have given us any idea of what the school wants from this paper.

We have heard through second-hand sources that we've become 'tabloidy' and the horrible spectre of opinion has crept into the news pages. What a load of bull. The stories on the first three pages of this paper are my personal responsibility and I take that very seriously. If there is an issue with any story on the first three pages, or any section in the paper shoot off a letter and we'll see what we can do. This paper is not a tabloid.

Now I have heard of some valid complaints. Being up here in this office for hours on end has insulated us somewhat and we now know that it's not o.k. to run a picture contest with a big "What the F—" prominently displayed, or turn the opinion pages into one long Livejournal-style flame war, or throw pornography into the horoscopes. Looking back, all of those things were inappropriate to run. Part of me wants to say, "It's a college newspaper, lighten up," but I realize this is a school funded endeavor and while the first amendment guarantees us the right to print whatever we want, our first duty should be to inform, enlighten and humor you, our readers. The first amendement should never be used as a blanket excuse for poor journalism or shoddy reporting and I'm not going to use it now.

Armed with this new knowledge 'The Voice' will stop being the rag that it is, unfit to mop up your common spill in the Dining Commons, and more the type of rag you'll feel good about maybe sending home to Mom and Pop to show what happens here at Westfield State.

I am not going to apologize though. I'm not sorry for the time I've spent up here putting this paper out. Some of the editorial decisions passed over these few weeks were hastily made while the staff was running low on sleep. It's not an excuse by any means but a picture of how sometimes what may seem funny at 4 a.m. is really offensive come Friday afternoon when the papers are delivered.

So another issue of this paper goes to bed with the promise that next week we'll move towards a paper that's a little more respectable, a little cleaner and little bit more better.

Maybe even a lot more better.

Matthew Bernat
Co-Editor-In-Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Last River Clean-Up of the Year!!

WHAT: Water Watch will be sponsoring its last river clean-up of the year. Volunteers from WSC and the Springfield area will, once again, go out and clean a section of the Westfield River. This is last opportunity of the year for students to make a direct impact on the water quality of Massachusetts.

WHEN: Saturday, November 13, 2004

WHO: Massachusetts Community Water Watch

WHERE: Westfield River, exact site TBA

MASSPIRG

Contact:
Kelsey Ketchenson, 413-320-7093

Arrests

The college sponsored a well-attended pizza party in the Ely Student Lounge after the game, but the celebration also spilled over to the Campus Green where several hundred students gathered. Some students set a small pile of rags and clothing on fire, which was quickly extinguished by campus and state police.

One student reported a cut forehead to the campus EMT unit, which was on hand for the event. He was taken to Noble Hospital for stitches and released. Another student was burned slightly in connection with the fire, but refused treatment, Paul Scannell, director of public safety, said.

The college had prepared for the celebration by having extra campus police, campus residence hall security officers and residence hall staff members on duty. State police were also at the scene to back up campus police and assist in preventing the celebrators from getting out of control.

The arrested students, as well as the eight students arrested during a previous Red Sox celebration on Oct. 20, face both criminal and campus judicial actions, which could include suspension from school.

.For more information, contact Public Affairs at 572-5523. [Ed. note: a Voice reporter Robbie Crossman had covered the 'riot'but his story was lost due to a computer glitch before deadline. Craig Phelon is from Public Affairs.]

photo by- Mike Coughlin

Students gather around a fire on the green following the Red Sox game 4 win the World Series. The crowd was dispersed by state police after the growd started to throw lighters into the fire.

Voice of the Week

Joan Rasool

Role at WSC : Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Her job is to advocate for students and faculty and insure the highest quality of academic programing for students.

Years spent at WSC: Over 25 years. She started out as a reading specialist in the Urban Education Program.

Favorite thing about WSC: The enthusiasm of the students and faculty and being able to make things happen.

Inspiration for profession: She likes ideas, problem solving, making things happen, and trying to make WSC shine.

Favorite movies: Annie Hall and Tree of Wooden Clogs

Favorite TV Show: Desperate House Wives

Advice to Students: "It is important to take risks to challenge yourself. I encourage everyone to travel outside of the country if possible."

Compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Dr. Nitza Hidalgo
Professor of Education
At Westfield State College

Presents...

"Puerto Rico, Mi Boriquen"

A slide show presentation on her travels throughout Puerto Rico. This presentation will look at major cities, rural settings, our Taino heritage, and cultural values.

This educational Forum is sponsored by the L.A.F.E.
(Latino Association For Empowerment)

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2004
Place: Third World Room, Ely Basement
Time: 6:30-7:30 pm

Passport Credit is Available

(Questions: call J.E. Fuller @ 572-5389)

General Science Club T-Shirt Contest

The General Science Club will be sponsoring a "T-shirt Design Contest." The club will be accepting entries for a design and/or slogan. If you are chosen as a winner, you will win a free shirt. The entry forms are located in Wilson 319, where they are also to be dropped off. The last day to enter is November 18th; the winners will be announced November 23rd.

Rules:

*** There will be a slogan and design division; participants may enter in both.**

*** Multiple entries are accepted.**

*** Club advisors and presidents vote on the winners.**

*** The contest is open to everyone.**

*** Entries must be science related as well as appropriate.**

*** No copy-write materials will be accepted.**

Good luck, and have fun! The next General Science Club meeting is Wednesday, November 10th at 3:30 and it is held in Wilson 317, feel free to stop by and check it out!

Voices Overheard

What would you shout to a passing tour group?

"Hallemeier"
Class TBA
History

"I'd run up to a perspective student, grab him by the lapels and whisper desperately 'For the love of God, or Allah, or Yahweh, please get me out of here!'"

Jon Mitchell
Class of 2006
English

"How's that rash doing?" (To the tour guide).

Colin Kiley
Class of 2005
English

"I'd vomit out the window."

Todd Vickstrom
Class of 2007
Theater

"I'd pull a perspective student aside by the arm angrily and say 'Don't...come here.'"

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

Photo by Mike Courtney

Photos by Mike Courtney

Last Wednesday's Coffee House

Wednesday's Coffee House went off without a hitch. From guitar strumming vocalists, to an absolutely hilarious stand-up comedian, this was an excellent night to be hanging out in the Ely Main Lounge. There was some anti-Bush rapping that went on and people were really getting into all of the performances and just letting loose. There were even some people break dancing right up in front of the stage. Alex Napolean and his freestyling gang struggled at times, but gave an overall riveting performance. Also worthy of credit was Josh Paul, who's soothing voice accompanied his "nasty" guitar playing beautifully. Our own Westfield State College comedian, Monty, gave a belly full of laughs, talking about such subjects as his controlling ex-girlfriend and a swim through a beautiful Jamaica bay, that was turned ugly by a group of jellyfish.

Photo by Pete Norwood

Photo by Pete Norwood

Marriage Bans Win Support in Some States

BY T.R. REID
THE WASHINGTON POST

Voters in states around the country found at least one thing they could agree on Tuesday as proposals to ban same-sex marriage appeared to be winning by large margins in early returns from the 11 states where the issue was on the ballot.

Tallies from early-reporting precincts in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and North Dakota suggested that state constitutional amendments restricting marriage to a man and woman would easily pass. Voters in Utah, Montana and Oregon were also considering same-sex marriage bans.

Florida voters approved a measure that would allow the legislature there to require parental notice before girls younger than 18 may seek abortions. Courts previously voided parental-notice laws, but the measure passed Tuesday changes the state constitution and would allow legislators to change the law.

Floridians also appeared to be approving a measure to raise the minimum wage there to $6.15, a dollar above the federal minimum wage. Nevadans were also voting on a minimum-wage increase Tuesday.

Oklahomans agreed to create a state lottery, early returns suggested, leaving nine states without that form of gambling as a means of raising revenue.

Gary Bauer, director of the conservative group American Values, said the results on same-sex marriage proposals "tell us that the American people know exactly where they stand on this question, and it doesn't matter whether it's a Bush state or a Kerry state."

The proposals to ban same-sex marriages also offered the possibility of increasing the turnout of social conservatives--a boost for President Bush.

The election offered 160 ballot issues to voters in 34 states Tuesday. That was a decline from the 2002 election, when ballots in 40 states listed 202 initiatives and referenda. The decrease reflected, in part, efforts by several state legislatures to make it more difficult for voters to qualify initiative proposals for the ballot.

In Colorado, Proposition 36 asked voters whether they wanted to allocate the state's nine electoral votes in proportion to the popular vote for president, instead of the winner-take-all method used in 48 of the 50 states. The measure would take effect immediately if approved and could affect this year's electoral college vote. Colorado Republicans led the opposition to the proposal, which has trailed in recent polls.

In Alaska, voters went to the polls to decide whether to become the first state to decriminalize marijuana under a plan that would allow adults to use, grow and sell it under state regulations. California voters were asked whether to ease the three-strikes law that mandates a lengthy prison term for a third felony conviction.

Health care, a central issue in campaigns this fall, also held a prominent place among ballot issues. Voters in four states--Florida, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming--voted on measures to limit the number of malpractice lawsuits or damage awards against doctors and hospitals. A competing measure in Florida was designed to make things easier for malpractice plaintiffs, by making doctors' practice records more available for scrutiny.

Colorado, Montana and Oklahoma voters considered ballot issues to raise tobacco taxes sharply--in Montana, the measure would add $1 per pack--and use the money for health care programs.

Californians were asked whether they were willing to pay new taxes earmarked for mental health care and emergency services, and to consider a plan to create a $3 billion fund for stem cell research. All the measures called for dedicating the new revenue to specific health-related programs, restricting the authority of legislatures to spend the money elsewhere.

There were tax-limitation measures on the ballot in Indiana, Maine and South Dakota Tuesday.

Proposals to expand or restrict legal gambling were on four state ballots, raising the possibility of Las Vegas-style casinos on the plains of Nebraska. California and Oklahoma had measures setting higher taxes and stricter regulation for casinos run by Indian tribes.

A new idea among this year's initiatives was an Arizona proposal to make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to receive public benefits. Immigration-control advocates said they would take the plan to several other states in 2005 and 2006 if it passes in Arizona.

Car Bomb Kills 6, Wounds 20 Near Schools

BY KARL VICK
BASAAM SEBTI
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq--Until Tuesday, the Ministry of Education remained untouched by the car bombs that erupt daily here. Insurgents had said the place was off limits because of the benevolent mission of the ministry, and they may have been deterred by the buildings clustered around it: a high school, a primary school and a kindergarten.

When a BMW sedan detonated outside the ministry at 9:30 a.m., killing at least six people, those running fastest to the crater in the middle of the street were parents.

"I saw three cars were burning and I saw all the glass of the windows was broken and I saw the schoolmaster of the primary school telling the pupils to go home," said Mustafa Khateeb, 34, who was summoned from his university workplace by his sister, whose son was in the primary school.

"The children were crying and screaming," Khateeb said.

Meena Abdul Qader, 13, was in a classroom at the Hariri High School for Girls when the windows blew in and smoke filled the building.

"I saw five students in the classroom next door injured by the glass, but I don't know what happened to them because I ran away to my house," she said.

Twenty people were wounded in the attack, according to a spokesman for the Interior Ministry of the Iraqi interim government. Two members of the Iraqi National Guard were killed in a separate car bombing in the northern city of Mosul. That attack, which targeted a military convoy carrying an Iraqi general, was carried out by an affiliate of al-Qaida in Iraq, according to a statement posted on a militant Islamist website.

A group of Iraqi militants holding aid worker Margaret Hassan threatened to turn her over to the al-Qaida group unless Britain withdraws its troops from Iraq. The al-Qaida group was known as Monotheism and Holy War until its Jordanian leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, pledged allegience to Osama bin Laden last month.

The satellite news channel Al Jazeera said the threat was contained in a new videotape which the station declined to air because it was too distressing. The station did not elaborate, but Britain's Press Association news agency quoted Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern as saying it shows Hassan fainting while pleading for her life. Ahern, who had read a written summary of the video, said her abductors then threw water over her head and she is seen lying on the ground weeping.

> **"I saw three cars were burning and I saw all the glass of the windows was broken and I saw the schoolmaster of the primary school telling the pupils to go home."**
>
> **-Mustafa Khateeb**

Hassan, born in Ireland and married to an Iraqi, has lived in Baghdad for 30 years. She is the country director for CARE International.

"Margaret has no political associations," Ahern told Irelands parliament. "She represents nobody but the vulnerable and the poor," he added. "Your quarrel is not with Margaret. Nor is it with the Irish people, who have been a firm friend of the Arab nations."

The al-Zarqawi group has cultivated a reputation for brutality. On Tuesday the group posted video footage of the beheading of Shosei Koda, the Japanese backpacker whose body was recovered in a field last week wrapped in an American flag. Japan's government had rebuffed demands to withdraw the 550 troops it has in southern Iraq doing reconstruction work.

64-Year-Old American Pleads Guilty to Deserting to N. Korea

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA
THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO--A 64-year old American soldier pleaded guilty on Wednesday to desertion to North Korea in 1965, receiving a relatively light sentence of up to 30 days confinement and a dishonorable discharge from a U.S. military judge in Japan.

The sentence for Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins was part of a plea bargain he struck with U.S. officials in which Jenkins is likely to provide information on his 38 years spent in Communist North Korea. He was scheduled to begin his confinement inside a U.S. naval base south of Tokyo later Wednesday, though Col. Denise Vowell, the judge handing his court martial, recommended the 30-day confinement period be suspended. A higher-ranking U.S. military official was expect to rule on her recommendation in the coming days.

The ruling effectively settled a rare dispute between the United States and its close ally, Japan, which had asked U.S. officials for leniency in his case after winning Jenkins' release from North Korea in July.

Japan intervened on Jenkins' behalf because he is the husband of Hitomi Soga, a Japanese citizen abducted by North Korean spies in 1978 and repatriated in late 2002 following diplomatic overtures by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Jenkins and Soga have two daughters who the North Koreans also surrendered along with Jenkins last summer.

The case of the North Carolina native garnered massive media attention in Japan, where the unlikely love story of the U.S. deserter and his Japanese wife, almost 20 years his junior, gripped the nation. Only the U.S. charges against him clouded the family's future in Japan. After serving his time, Jenkins is likely to resettle with his family here with the blessing of the Japanese government.

"I only hope that the small happiness we have as a family will grow bigger and bigger," Soga told the court.

Jenkins on Wednesday admitted that he had willingly abandoned his post along the Demilitarized Zone between South and North Korea in 1965. He told the court that he had planned the desertion for 10 days, and had tied a white T-shirt to his rifle to signal his surrender to the North Koreans.

He said he feared his hazardous duty on the tense Korean peninsula, and wanted avoid being redeployed to Vietnam. He said he made his decision after spending many days depressed.

"I walked away from my squad ... for the purpose of going to North Korea," Jenkins told the court.

In uniform and close to tears, Jenkins, who was raised in poverty and never made it to high school, added that "it was Christmas time, it was also cold and dark. I started to drink alcohol. I never had drunk so much alcohol."

Jeokins said he had planned to travel to the Soviet Union, and turn himself in at the U.S. Embassy there. But the North Koreans would not allow him to leave. "I knew 100 percent what I was doing, but I didn't know the consequences behind it," he said. "I didn't know that North Korea was going to keep me."

Jenkins pleaded guilty to aiding the enemy by teaching English to North Koreans during the 1980s. But he denied that his participation in at least one anti-U.S. North Korean propaganda movie--where he starred as sinister CIA agent--amounted to additional charges of making disloyal statements against the United States.

He said grew to despise his new homeland, and that only meeting Soga--who had been kidnapped by North Koreans to teach Japanese to North Korea's spies--kept him going emotionally. "She was 20 years younger than me and no one thought that she could love me," he said tearfully.

"Our mutual hate for North Korea brought us together and kept us together for 24 years," he said. "Marriage to my wife brought me happiness."

He said his desire to keep Soga, and later, their two daughters, safe, made him cooperate. Besides participating in propaganda films, Jenkins is also believed to have taught at a North Korean spy school.

"You don't say no to North Korea," he said. "You say one thing bad about (national founder) Kim Il Sung and you dig your own hole, because you're gone."

After coming to Japan via Jakarta in July, Jenkins turned himself over to U.S. authorities at Camp Zama, Japan. Jenkins faced a maximum penalty of life in prison. Prosecutors had sought nine months of detention against him. Hiroyuki Hosoda, Koizumi's top spokesman, thanked the United States on Wednesday for its "consideration" in the Jenkins case.

-File Photo

64-Year-Old Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins pleaded guilty to deserting to North Korea in 1965.

Kerry Concedes Election, Calls for National Unity

By Lois Romano
Jim VandeHei
The Washington Post

BOSTON–In the end, John Kerry finally found the warmth and passion he was often criticized for lacking, emotionally telling those who fought so hard for him that he wished he could "wrap you up in my arms and embrace each and every one of you."

In a speech as gracious as it was eloquent, the senator from Massachusetts ended his quest for the presidency on Wednesday afternoon, hours after it became painfully clear that all roads to the White House had closed for him.

"I'm sorry that we got here a little bit late and a little bit short," said Kerry, standing alone on a stage at historic Faneuil Hall, as staff and family wept in the front row. "In America, it is vital that every vote count ... but the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal fight. I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail."

After a two-year campaign that lurched from a sense of inevitability to despair and then back again, the end for Kerry came very quickly. Just before 11 a.m. Wednesday in the kitchen of Kerry's Beacon Hill town house, aides Bob Shrum and Mary Beth Cahill told him that the numbers would never add up for him in Ohio, his last hope–that there were simply not enough ballots left change the course of history.

"That's it," Kerry said. Then Kerry went into his study with his wife Teresa and called his running mate John Edwards, and then President Bush to concede the race.

"We talked about the danger of division in our country and the need, the desperate need for unity, for finding the common ground, coming together," said Kerry of his four-minute conversation with the president.

"We are required now to work together for the good of our country. In the days ahead, we must find common cause, we must join in common effort, without remorse or recrimination, without anger or rancor. America is in need of unity and longing for a larger measure of compassion."

Kerry assured all the people who supported him that their work "made a difference" and pledge to keep fighting for them.

"And building on itself ... we go on to make a difference another day," he said. "I promise you that time will come. The time will come, the election will come when your work and your ballots will change the world. And it's worth fighting for."

Kerry and Edwards came out to together and stood before a 27-foot wide oil painting, depicting an 1830 historic senate debate between Daniel Webster and Robert Hayne. Inscribed on the frame are Webster's famous words: "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever."

Edwards introduced Kerry, thanked supporters and pledged to keep working for them. "You can be disappointed, but you cannot walk away," he said. "This fight has just begun." Kerry was the early favorite to win the Democratic nomination because of his service as a decorated Navy officer in Vietnam, his experienced staff and ability to raise money–both from donors and his rich wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry. Yet, for all his ambition, candidate Kerry struggled with boldly defining himself and his vision for the nation–and even for his own party.

> **"I'm sorry that we got here a little bit late and a little bit short. In America, it is vital that every vote count...but the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal fight. I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail."**
> **-Sen. John Kerry**

Kerry often appeared unsure of his platform and political strategy, watching in frustration as party leaders such as Al Gore and the media crowned former Vermont governor Howard Dean the front-runner. After his campaign floundered for months, top heavy with advisers, Kerry finally shook things up. He fired his campaign manager in late 2003, loaned his campaign several million dollars and bet the nomination on a last stand in Iowa.

In a comeback worthy of the history books, Kerry then stormed from behind to win the Iowa caucuses and went on to sweep through the primaries with only nominal opposition from Edwards, his future running mate. Almost overnight, Kerry quelled critics and emerged as a formidable challenger to Bush–but one who could never shake concerns about his likeability, vision and consistency on major issues, especially Iraq.

Still, he tapped into a powerful anti-Bush movement sweeping big cities and college campuses around the country, shattering party fund-raising records and doing what many once considered impossible–eliminating the Republican's historical edge in fund-raising. But for much of the year, Kerry offered contradictory views on Iraq, saying he supported the war, but frequently criticizing it. In one of the most memorable–and damaging–lines of the campaign, Kerry seemed to capture the confusion by telling West Virginia voters in March, "I actually did vote for the $87 billion before I voted against it." He was referring to money for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The line became a staple of Bush ads and speeches and allowed the Bush-Cheney campaign to effectively portray Kerry as an indecisive leader. Still, with casualties and chaos mounting in Iraq, Kerry ran even or ahead of Bush for much of the year and never felt pressured to change his style or message.

Kerry told aides that as long as he could convince voters during the Democratic convention in July that he was an able and acceptable alternative to Bush as commander in chief, he could win. By that measure, Kerry's convention was a wild success, and he was widely praised for delivering a strong speech on national security, war service and patriotism. But he never made an effective case for Bush's defeat or an alternative direction on domestic policy.

The speech also had an unintended consequence: It opened the door for critics led by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth to challenge the Democratic nominee's service in Vietnam and leadership role in the anti-war protests in the 1970s.

In a matter of a few weeks in August, the anti-Kerry veterans dominated cable news and in some ways the campaign with relentless attacks on Kerry's credibility, providing the president a lift in the polls and forcing the Democratic nominee to rethink his approach. Kerry regained footing in September, in large part by bringing in some of Bill Clinton's most talented advisers, sharpening his attacks and turning in what both sides considered powerful debate performances. He closed out the race with a relentless attack on Bush's credibility, decision-making in Iraq and ability to win the war on terror–and, all along, reassured aides this was what it would take to win.

And by week's end, polling indicated, his strategy may have been working, as Kerry looked to be inching forward. Exit polls on election day showed Kerry leading in battleground states. When Kerry and Shrum rode to Kerry's house Tuesday night, after the candidate gave 38 eleventh-hour interviews to battleground states, Shrum told him, "I think you're going to make it." The two began drafting a victory speech–but also a statement conceding the race to Bush.

Several hours later, the exuberance that gripped the campaign gave way to hours of grim assessments and high anxiety. Shrum said he started to get a "sinking feeling" when it became apparent that Republicans were showing strength in Florida and Ohio–states that looked winnable earlier.

Senior campaign officials worked the phones all night, and by the final 8 a.m. staff meeting Wednesday, the message was unmistakable. "We looked at the numbers, talked to people, in Ohio, talked to lawyers. ... And it became clear that the likelihood of the provisional ballots exceeding the margin (they needed to win) was exceedingly low," said adviser Tad Devine.

Mostly everyone at Faneuil Hall seemed in a baffled daze, not understanding how their assessments were so wrong. "Obviously we missed something here," said Kerry's closest friend, David Thorne.

After the speech, many of his key staff members adjourned to a nearby Irish bar. Ned Devine's, to commiserate.

As for himself, Kerry offered no regrets.

"So with a grateful heart, I leave this campaign with a prayer that has even greater meaning to me now," he said. "And that prayer is very simple: God bless America."

Nadar Ends Campaign With Parting Shot At Those Who Sought To Keep Him Off Ballot

By Jonathan Finer
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON–Ralph Nader concluded his run for the presidency Tuesday by driving from New Jersey to a public library in Washington, where he railed against the millions being spent on the District's new baseball team and delivered a broadside against those who worked to keep him off of the ballot in a some key states.

"The Democrats waged a bucketful of dirty tricks and phony lawsuits and intimidation and harassment of our signature gatherers to get us off," he said at a news conference here. "I can't let them get away with it, because they're going to do it again and again to others. So they're going to have to pay a penalty in a variety of ways."

It was, perhaps, a fitting final day in a campaign that Nader's critics and many former supporters have maintained was more about publicizing pet issues and refusing to yield than about winning the White House.

It was unclear early Tuesday night whether Nader, 70, who voted absentee in Greenwich, Coon., would emerge as a villain to Democrats again. Four years ago, Nader earned some 2.7 million votes nationwide but was accused by Democrats of swinging Florida and New Hampshire–and therefore the election–to George W. Bush.

After spending recent months fighting lawsuits in states in which Bush and Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., were competing closely, Nader ended up on the ballot in 34 states and the District of Columbia, 10 fewer states than he competed in four years ago. Widespread fraud derailed one of his highest-profile drives, in Pennsylvania, where an analysis of his petitions turned up the names of celebrities and cartoon characters.

His organization consisted mostly of student volunteers because he lacked the resources to hire staff in most states or to conduct polls.

> **"The Democrats waged a bucketful of dirty tricks and phony lawsuits and intimidation and harassment of our signature gatherers to get us off."**
> **-Ralph Nader**

He also failed to earn the endorsement of the Green Party, which had backed him in two previous elections, and suffered the defection of a number of former backers, such as the filmmaker Michael Moore, and his former running mate, Winona LaDuke. He was later nominated by the Reform Party USA, a struggling organization that retains ballot lines in just seven states.

Progressives across the country, who had long constituted his core constituency, turned against him in droves, fearing he would again tilt the election toward Bush.

"We wanted to make sure everyone understood that his candidacy was an ego-filled Trojan horse for George W. Bush, and we did that," said Jason Mackintosh, an adviser to the anti-Nader Democratic Action Team.

Nader spokesman Kevin Zeese said the campaign, which was focused from the start on opposition to the Iraq war and on the influence of large corporations on politics, "accomplished more than it's given credit for."

"Every paradigm shift in American history has started at single digits in electoral support," Zeese said. "This country needs a paradigm shift, and Ralph Nader put forward a vision for the future that puts the country on the right track. There will be more third parties and more independent candidates in the future because of what we did."

Walter Stone, who chairs the political science department at the University of California at Davis and is writing a book on third-party politics, said that unlike in 2000, Nader this year suffered because the electorate sensed important differences between the two major party candidates.

"Third-party candidates depend on the feeling that the Democrats and Republicans are standing for the same things," Stone said. "That case couldn't be made as effectively this year."

Zeese would not rule out another presidential run for the man who vaulted into the public consciousness in 1965 with the publication of "Unsafe at Any Speed," a book that led directly to the passage of new automobile safety laws.

"The struggle for justice is for long-distance runners," Nader wrote in an Election Day message to supporters.

ABC News Now: Future Is Uncertain

By Elizabeth Jensen
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK – When ABC launched ABC News Now, its 24-hour news channel that airs on digital cable and the Internet, executives called it an experiment that would end Election Day.

Many observers now expect the channel to continue, but as of Monday, the network wouldn't comment on whether viewers watching its election programming Tuesday night, anchored by Chris Cuomo, Michel Martin and Hari Sreenivasan, would see a test pattern at midnight.

ABC News Now began in July with gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Democratic National Convention. Executives explained that they had taken the step because their corporate bosses were giving the convention so little air time on the ABC broadcast network and, unlike their competitors at NBC, they had no cable news channel to fall back on as an outlet for additional reporting and analysis.

One executive, who declined to be named, said ABC is "ultimately very hopeful" that the network would keep going but nothing had been decided, nor is it known how many people are actually watching the channel via cable.

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

Dear Emily Ransom:

I read with interest your comments regarding the "Musical Forest" concert. Perhaps it would have been helpful for you to know that this performance was advertised throughout the campus and community as a program to inspire teachers and students of music, education and literature in a unique way in which they can combine these various venues to inspire people of all ages. Maybe you missed this. The performance was geared to show college students how they can combine music and literature in a way that many may not have seen before and hopefully think about in their future classrooms.

Earlier in the day, eighth graders at the North Middle School in Westfield were very enthusiastic during the performance. It is part of our goal, at WSC, to provide community outreach. The performers were well received by the eighth graders, teachers and principal. Your statement, for children although they might not appreciate the goal either, is hearsay and perhaps you should reconsider your use of jargon especially on the heels of such a wonderful program at the NMS.

"The Raven" sounded just great from where I was sitting. But perhaps if the sound technician had stayed throughout the performance it would have helped for the 'dead spots' in Dever. I was very upset to not find him in the booth just before "The Raven" performance. Performers of the calibre that was on stage Monday night strive for perfect sound and they were assured that it would be. WSC let them down - hence the yelling of the narrator.

Your last statement "The program was unique and was a pleasant experience, but it probably would have had better attendance for a different population," was confusing, for earlier you stated that it was heard by middle school students, and I'm not sure what you meant by different population for all populations were represented at the concert including some young people.

I suggest that you contact your sources before a performance to get a better idea of what to expect. I would have been delighted to tell you how this concert came about, the planning and my intensions of getting people to think outside the box. These performers were here from noon to 9 p.m. They drove here from as far away as New York. They practiced numerous hours the weeks before the concert. They were paid very little yet made us (WSC) look good in the community. After the concert, as I walked them to their cars, we could hear the yells of students in Scanlon enthusiastically rooting for the Red Sox. It's a shame that this concert fell on Red Sox night and a shame that you missed some of the highlights of the concert.

- Holly Robbins
Producer of "Musical Forrest"

To the Editors:

I recently attended the National Make A Difference Day river clean-up at Loon Pond, sponsored by the Westfield Community Water Watch. The turn out was less than expected but the group managed to pick up enough trash in and around Loon Pond to fill two large garbage trucks. Everyone left with a feeling of accomplishment and pride after seeing the pond go from a wasteland of rusty shopping carts and plastic bags to a scenic pond with clear water and abundant wildlife.

Yes, what Water Watch did that day was a good thing and made a big difference in the water quality of Loon Pond and the surrounding area. However, Massachusetts still has the second worst water quality in the nation (right under New Jersey), and the majority of our rivers are not fit for swimming or fishing due to a high level in per chlorates, mercury, and other harmful chemicals.

Many campuses around the state have started Water Watch campaigns through MASSPIRG, but interest in these issues still seems to be low within our campuses. WSC students have a great opportunity to make a direct impact on the water quality of Massachusetts just by attending river clean-ups along the Westfield River. Take it from me, the clean-ups are easy and fun, and the results have a lasting effect not only on the environment but also on the community.

- Travis Branham

To the Editors:

I am responding to two columns that were based on the hysteria that the Red Sox caused. The first column was entitled "This is for the spectators" by Sarah Cagan. It appeared in the October 18th edition. Sarah said, "with the elections so close you would think that college students would be pondering their future and who they want to vote for" and "the lack of interest in this area is astounding." My question is, who's to say students on this campus aren't pondering their future? You have to ask yourself something: what is more entertaining? A debate in which you know where each candidate already stands because you have heard it 100 times, or a history making comeback against the best organization in sports? A debate in which both candidates ultimately lie, or Boston's first World Series championship in 86 years?

Don't get me wrong, I agree with you about the rioting. Rioting is for immature losers. The problem I have is it sounds like you are condemning a hardcore sports fan like myself. I don't watch sports and get drunk, I don't riot. I watch sports because that is my entertainment. What is wrong with that? Why not criticize people who are obsessed with music or art? Those are hobbies too. I am also very aware of the upcoming election, and I'm sure fellow sports fans on this campus are too.

As for the whole spectator argument, that is bunk. That is like me telling you that you shouldn't root for a certain Presidential candidate. It's like me saying you should actually go out there and run for President. See? It doesn't work that way. Guess what? If we were good enough to play pro sports we would! I'm also pretty confident that a lot of hardcore sports fans on this campus participate in intramurals. Does that count as getting into the game? I think it does.

The second column was "Red Sox Nation turns Anarchic" by Bill George. It appeared in the November 1st edition. He brings up the death of Victoria Snelgrove. Let me first say that what happened was a terrible tragedy. Something like this should never happen in a "celebration." The problem I have is Bill asking if the World Series victory was worth it. This doesn't make any sense to me. Nobody promised that if the Sox won an innocent woman would be accidentally killed by a Boston police officer. It was simply an accident that nobody could have foreseen. I, nor any innocent Red Sox fan bears ANY responsibility for this woman's death. I wasn't in Boston, so I don't even know what happened, maybe some people around her should bear some responsibility. I don't know all the facts, but neither do you Bill. Until the investigation is complete I will reserve judgment. I think you should do the same. Read: Lay off Red Sox fans for the time being. Despite what you say, RSN is the best group of fans in sports. I wonder what the percentage of Sox fans was that actually participated in the violent behavior you described? It is a very minimal percent Bill. Did you ever think of how many Red Sox fans there are nationwide? Did you ever think of the range in age of Red Sox fans? Don't go painting all of RSN with one brush please. I know I don't appreciate it and I bet there are many more who don't either.

P.S. Emily, don't stereotype boys from eastern Massachusetts like that :)

- John Deschenes
Fellow Voice Columnist

To the Editors:

Dear Miss Engel,

I just wanted to thank you for giving me a good laugh on a Monday afternoon. Today it was the frat boy. Last week it was the pancake teets. Classic.

I like the spunk that your columns have had. They've hit a chord around campus, especially Scanlon.

I'm making a request. I want an editorial on your top five favorite movies, and why. If you want more students to respond, watch what happens when you write about movies. No pun intended. At the very least, I'll respond.

Take it for what it is - a suggestion.

Whatever way you go, keep up the good work.

- Sean Rood

To the Editors:

Dear Ms. Oliver:

I want you to know, first, that we the membership of one of the other unions on campus are in complete support of the MSCA. I also would like the rest of the campus to know that the members of AFSCME Local 1067 have been patiently waiting since 2001 for the full funding of our contract, that's two years before the faculty started negotiating. Some of you were not even freshmen here when we started negotiating and you will be graduating in the Spring.

Let me tell you who we are. We are the lowest paid employees. We are the people who try to keep your buildings clean, we are the people who try to keep you safe, we are the people who keep you warm, we are the people who make sure you have electric services, we are the people who supply your water, we are the people who take care of the grounds and plow the snow, we are the clerical staff throughout the campus, we are the telephone operators, the mail clerks, the printers, the supply people, the lab techs, the firemen at the power plant, and the equipment mechanics. We hold jobs that some of your parents have. There are about 170 of us here to take care of you every day. We hope we recieve our funding soon, its been too long now.

So when you write the stories of unions, of people who work for wages, think about us all.

- Christopher Olsen
President
AFSCME Local 1067

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THE VOICE
PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Mother Earth has AIDS!

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

AIDS is a serious issue that faces humans in the world today. I'm sure I am not the only one in this sad, miserable world who would agree that our Mother Earth has AIDS. From what I understand, AIDS is a virus that starts out as HIV and gets progressively worse. It is not the disease itself that kills people; it is the sicknesses that attack the body while the immune system is dangerously weak. I'm not here to joke about AIDS, because I realize that it is a serious issue. What I am here to talk about is how we have given this disease to the Earth. More accurately, I am suggesting that we ourselves are the disease, weakening the Earth's natural immune system and thereby lessening our chances of long-term survival.

I suppose it would have started when man first learned how to make fire. This is when we first starting to pollute the environment. A few humans here and there could not possibly create that much of a problem, but unfortunately, among the human race's list of abilities is the ability to reproduce rather rapidly. We (as Earthlings) have now surpassed a global population of 6 billion people. There are estimates that range from 2 billion to 12 billion people being the maximum population our Earth can handle. It is already clear that it is under incredible stress, and in no small part of our kind.

These numbers vary for several reasons; one of which being that human consumption of natural resources is not uniform. This means that certain people consume more natural resources than others. For example, in the United States, the poor consume far less than the rich. In Nature's eyes, however, this does not matter. What does matter is that we are destroying the very planet on which we live and as far as I know, there isn't another habitable planet anywhere in this galaxy.

If it seems like I am calling to all humans to stop trashing our environment, then I have not properly conveyed my message. I do have a sort of faith; I have faith that all humans will do their part to screw up our home. Don't get me wrong; I know I am guilty as well. I have decided that in a society such as ours, it is impossible to not screw up the environment. If you do your part for the Earth immediately around you and throw your trash away, it is taken to a dump and buried. Then the rain will come, and the less well-off dumps will end up leaching their trash into streams, water supplies, the soil, and eventually back into our systems. You see, it is really quite impossible not to trash our environment, with the way we do things as a society.

What makes me feel better is that the Earth will only take this kind of abuse for so long. Even though humans are themselves solely responsible for the biggest extinction level event this planet has ever seen, they will receive their "just desserts." I am embarrassed to be a human being because even the worst-off of us have it better than the other inhabitants of Earth. Even if we were to fully reverse course and clean up our acts, there is much damage done that could not be reversed for decades, perhaps even centuries. Beware of being too disrespectful toward Earth, however, because as every being, She does have an immune system. I am waiting for the day when we are all wiped out. Pure devastation will be everywhere, mothers crying for their lost children, babies crying for their mothers, children looking for their fathers, brothers for sisters, and I honestly will not feel sorrow for these people. If there is one thing I can thank the human race for, it is for making me cold toward our existence. It does not matter when one dies, it is just one step closer to salvation for Mother Earth, but even so, for every pimple you pop, three will come right back up in its place.

A very young Veteran

"Marty Knows...Maybe"
By Kristina Martinelli
Voice Columnist

In honor of Veteran's Day, I would like to share with you an edited speech I gave this past Memorial Day in my hometown.

It is odd to think that at 22 years of age, I could be a veteran. When in fact, soldiers younger than myself are considered veterans as well. Memorial Day means so much more to me now, not only because I'm a veteran, but because I can fully comprehend the sacrifices given by so many.

Have you ever cried for someone you never knew? For a member of a family you didn't grow up with?

When you join the military, you become part of a family. It isn't possible to interact with each member, or even hear mention of all their names. It is your family though, just like the family members you live with today. Soldiers fight to protect the family that they are a part of, no matter what the cost.

One of the saddest days during my time in Afghanistan was when I watched two flag draped caskets carried onto a C-17. In a place where all you ever hear are plane engines, vehicles roaring past, and Field Artillery; the only thing heard that morning was silence. Every command that was given was loud and clear, every movement was snapped, and every tear was sincere.

I realized that those soldiers, as well as every other soldier that was outside the wire, were fighting to protect me. They were fighting to protect every soldier that slept safely on Kandahar Airfield. More than that, they were fighting to protect the people in a country that never had experienced the slightest joys that we, as Americans, take for granted every day.

The soldiers who fell were members of a group of young men who lived by the motto, "Deeds not Words." Walking around Kandahar Airfield, you heard this motto everyday, and to the guys who were assigned to Triple Deuce, it was more than that. They truly believed in what they were saying. "Deeds not Words" sums up what the military is all about.

Throughout this country's history, men and women in uniform have traveled thousands of miles to places they would never set foot normally. To places where they couldn't dream of, places they wouldn't want to think about. Service members protect those who can't protect themselves.

Today we honor those soldiers whose lives were lost fighting for what they believed everyone deserved...FREEDOM! Soldiers whose lives were lost protecting this country and protecting you and me. Their memory is kept alive by people like you who support what we, as soldiers, do.

Few of you know how much it means when you say thank you to a soldier. I have heard many of my friends say that it means so much to have someone come up to them and shake their hand. A soldier in my unit was telling everyone what an awesome experience it was just to sit in the VFW in his town. The WWII generation vets were coming up to him and saying thank you to HIM instead of the reverse.

While overseas, I worked in the post office. I sorted a countless amount of mail on a weekly basis. Not a day went by when at least 10 soldiers would ask about the incoming mail, ask about a parcel they were expecting, or tell one of us how much our job meant to them. Indirectly, they were saying thank you to everyone back stateside who supported us. Without your support, I don't think that the soldiers would be able to make it through a 9-month deployment with the positive attitude that they had.

So, on this Memorial Day, I would like to say thank you to YOU. Without your support, we wouldn't be so successful. It is your support that keeps the memories of past wars, fallen soldiers, and veterans alive.

Owned!

"The Left-Handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Columnist

I would be lying to anyone who reads this if I said that it didn't feel good to be living in Massachusetts right now, because I feel like a Boston Red Sox fan would have felt in Times Square back in October. As of this afternoon, George W. Bush is still the president of the United States until the year 2008 and I could not feel better about it. That's right you non-objective horrible excuses for professors! Tear down those 'Impeach Bush!' stickers and 'One Term President' signs and buy yourself some Kleenex because it is going to be a long four years. While you're at it, you can keep your flimsy political standpoints out of the education that I pay for with the money that I earn in the country that you crap on. Thanks a bunch. I absolutely loved the solemn looks students and faculty had on their faces when I was walking around campus this afternoon. I felt like I was in a monastery and was expecting to see some black arm bands around. Picking out the conservatives in the crowds of frowns wasn't hard. A personal conservative friend of mine told me that he couldn't stop smiling. Hell, I couldn't either! For the past year I have had to deal with so much crap from friends, professors and perfect strangers on this election, and it feels good to finally say 'Hey, what'd I tell you? I predicted that he'd win and he did it fair and square.' I am a political minority in this state, on this campus and it is now my time to sit back and relax while everyone around me gets riled up. This is the best damn feeling in the world.

Now that Bush is staying in office indefinitely, a lot of changes are going to occur. The Grand Old Party has absolutely pillaged both the Congressional House and the Senate taking a firm majority status. On top of that, three or four Supreme Court Justice positions need to be filled, and by golly I do believe those positions are appointed by the president. All in all, the next four years are looking great for America because the real threat to our national security has been vanquished, and that threat is John Forbes Kerry. A man who had no reason to be running for presidency and zero experience or backbone is no longer a threat to taking over a job that only George W. Bush can handle at this point in time. Thank you for conceding so quickly and making it easier on yourself too, John. Ohio appreciates it and I sure do also.

What I am saying has been a long-time coming and pent up in the minds of many conservatives. Dealing with the constant onslaught of liberal media covering the election over the past few months, having to come face to face with scum like Al Franken in Maine and enduring the horribly inaccurate film *Fahrenheit 9/11* has really numbed the sensitivity I would have to the feelings of the losing party. Liberals, you thought that you had this election in the bag, and as a whole, conservative voters proved you dead wrong. You thought that the pathetic excuse for a documentary, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, would sway the vote and it did not in the slightest. Overall, you were wrong all over the place and the polls were simply the fatal blow that inevitably burst the fragile bubble of JFK II.

An unbearable four years ahead

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

No, seriously, eff Ohio. Eff Texas. Eff Montana and Em-eye-ess-ess-eye-ess-ess-eye-pee-pee-eye. Florida can forget itself with its 27 electoral votes. I was born in Ohio, and lived the last three years in New Hampshire. I'm a son of the swing states, with my heart and head set in Massachusetts.

It's 12:57a.m. and I'm several hours late for my deadline. I'm wondering what euphemism for the Eff word will appear in my column in a week. More than editing, though, I'm wondering how this happened. I know there are a lot of very gullible people in this country. And I know there are people who honestly, frighteningly, believe that George Bush Jr. is what this country needs. Those who do, they see the world in a way I don't. Fine, I'm a pluralist. I can accept that some people understand and agree with Bush II. I can even accept (though not understand) that some genuinely decent, intelligent people voted for Bush 2.0 with thorough knowledge of who and what he is.

But I don't, not for a second, not at all believe there are fifty million of them. I believe there are millions of lazy, scared, ignorant people who believe that Kerry is weak because someone told them and they refuse to actually look into things for themselves. I don't buy that there are fifty million Americans who honestly looked into the face of madness, bigotry, and messianic megalomania, and said "that's my president." No, that I don't buy.

This isn't the victory of Bushism's "plain spoken" (dumbing-down) inarticulance. This isn't the victory of Chenian international imperialism. This isn't even the sickening complacency that endorses Ashcroftian totalitarianism. This is the glass-eyed, beer-swilling electoral belch of Rovism. This is millions of people not knowing the truth. This is assumptions and intellectual sloth. This is a nation of people who saw Osama Bin Laden, alive and healthy, happy and crazy, evil and empowered, and thought "Oh save me George, oh daddy Bush, my Dear Leader," rather than wondering "Hey, why the effing eff did George say (direct quote) 'I truly am not that concerned about him (bin Laden)' and then have the nerve to deny it in the debates?"

This is an election that will, throughout the world, be seen as a tragedy. America has become its own battered wife, afraid and accepting and infinitely, INFINITELY forgiving of its batterer. No-bid contracts (you can't get a damn wheelchair ramp built in a government building without bidding) for Dick Cheney's old company Halliburton? But he loves me. A ruined economy? But he loves me. Endless flip-flopping on the reasons for going to Iraq? But Bush loves me. He even got me these nice flowers/tax breaks. See? He loves me. He loves me. He loves me.

Four more years! ... Of apathy, destruction and disappointment

"SO IT GOES"
BY EMILY ENGEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Much to everyone's demise, instead of responding to two more letters I recieved about the long-over-with breast story, it is finally time for me to write a political commentary. Shockingly, there are more important things in life. Politics hasn't been touched upon by me lately, seeing as though I've been too busy fending off members of "The Cresent Moon Society" and cowboys. But mainly because I've been extremely disenchanted by the whole compaign and most .of the aspects there of. Throughout this period of time, I had a glimmer of hope; I thought maybe this time there will be some sort of regime change and we can all breathe a small sigh of relief. But of course, whatever can go wrong, will.

This has been an extremely long, drawn out and unpredictable election. But never did I think that Ohio would cause so much trouble. I felt my heart sink when I saw the controversy over Ohio, and knew that my glimmer of hope was fading quickly.

If anything, this election will further the apathy of the youth.

Senator Kerry's actions were greatly dissapointing. Kerry has run away with his tail between his legs. He quit before anything could be recounted. Despite everyone saying it was over, it truly wasn't. He admitted defeat so quickly, even after Edwards spoke at 2 a.m. Wednesday morning about how they've waited four years for this victory, and surely they could wait another day. Apparently not. Not that I think Kerry would've changed the world; Far from it. He was only the lesser of the two evils.

By no means was I ever crazy about Kerry, his politics, his "plans" and his history. What I don't understand is how someone who so openly opposed to the Vietnam war could go on about how he supports the never-ending Iraqi war efforts. He could've been an incredible president had he saved some of those ideals over the past few decades. Imagine: a President who wasn't war hungry!

Looking at that man's stone face, I knew he'd never see the inside of the White House unless he was on some sort of tour.

What made me angry was the feeble attempts of the media that focused on the youth, such as MTV's "20 Million Loud" and PDiddy's "VOTE OR DIE" slogan/shirt that he's been wearing since July. After all those commericals, all that hype, and hearing that man scream his slogan while sporting a fauxhawk, only seemed influence one out of ten 18 to 25-year olds to get to the polls. If anything, I believe such attempts turned off that group of young people. Seeing as though the MTV audience is mostly angsty Good Charlotte listening 14-year olds, I don't think it helped too much. I believe this group is just far too apathetic. We didn't need celebrities shoving a catchy slogan down our throats. We got the facts. We saw the debates. Some of us read the newspaper and followed the media. But what is truly going to make us care? I believe that it is yet to be discovered.

We were warned, though. We saw Fahrenheit and we're witnessing the unecessary slaughter of young Americans in Iraq, an entire war based on the wrong "enemy." What more did we need?

The dissent in NYC made the glimmer shine a little brighter, but apparently it was a big tease. It was so exciting to see so many go out and have their voices heard. It almost made one think that change was possible.

As for our own campus, what I found to be hilarious is MASSPIRG's attempts to heighten voter registration early in September. They sent their blondes in sandals to all the classrooms to proclaim the importance of getting involved and voting. And you know, many listened, went out to the registration rally and were planning on voting. Little did any of them know that their forms would be sent to the wrong location, and for some, their first experience in voting would turn to mush. What a great way to keep 'em coming back to the polls. Go team Westfield MASSPIRG!

I've seen several Bush supporters on campus jump for joy over his win, but I wonder if any of them realize that he won by an extremely small margin. All those 51% and 48%'s shows that we are a completely divided country. Doesn't that scare anyone? Half the country did not want any of this to happen. The way for those of us to react to the celebritory actions of our less-er learned counterparts is to remain neutral. Don't let on to your depression over the idea of another four years. Keeping a positive mental attitude will be the only way to go at this point. Letting the other side think they've "won" something more than this election by very slim margins won't help anything. Believe me, they'll be suffering too at some point.

Sadly, not all Bush supporters are on learned. Some of the most inteligent and educated people people I know are Bush supporters. I will never understand this phenomenon. Why don't they see the damage this man has caused? He stole the election in 2000, started a war that can't be finished and now we're rewarding him in 2004 with another four years in office.

I suppose the only thing left to look forward to is the end of the Bush dynasty in four years. That's a long time to wait.

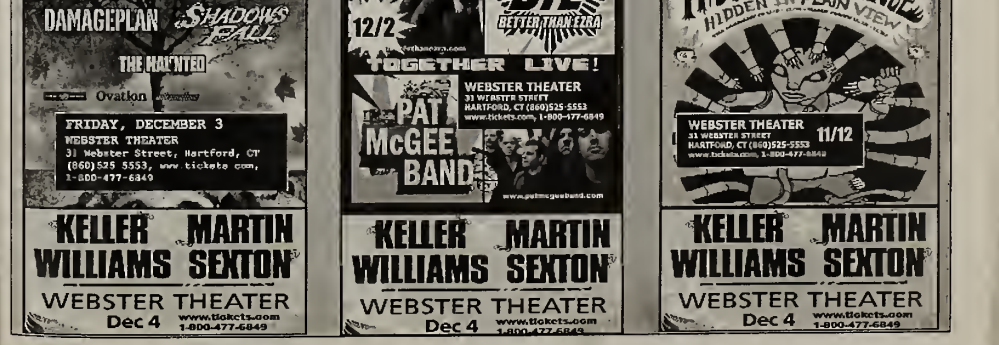
The only conclusion I can come to is that now the United States of America is getting exactly what it deserves. We voted the dolt back in for another four years , it was our choice, and damnit, we've got to live with the consequences. More war, terrorism, and a completely divided country is all we have to look forward to.

Oh well. When the chicken's come home to roost, hopefully they'll crap on Bush's head beforehand. Another four years and an unending war is not what he needs.

For someone who saw what happened in New York, protested every chance she got, and had hope for a better future. Puh. So much for that.

I wish I had more to say. I know I do, but it's late, and I'm tired and severly depressed knowing that another chance for change won't come for another four years.

Good luck, America. We're going to need it like you won't believe.



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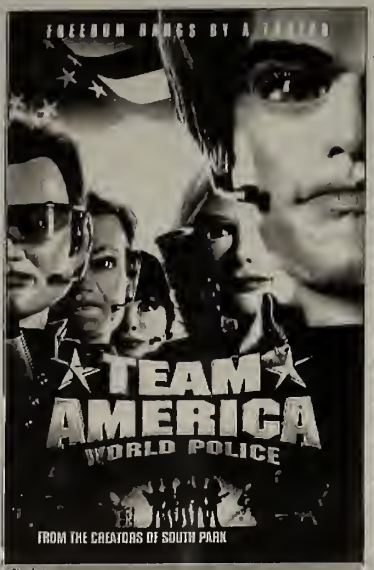

-file photo

Team America **- playing at a theater near you (well, kind of near you, considering there is no movie theater in Westfield).**

A must see marionette movie

BY SARAH CAGAN
A&E EDITOR

On the Surface *Team America: World Police* is a slap stick comedy with one too many distasteful references, much like *South Park*. The creators of *South Park* took the idea of a marionette movie farther than anybody has ever done before. Trey Parker and Matt Stone's thought process goes so much deeper then their cheesy cartooning and marionette movie would lead you to believe.

It isn't all about muffled linguistics and shallow gun toting puppets. They have a message that is often well hidden under all that humor. In Team America it was apparent that they struck both the Left and Right wings of the government with delicious jibes, and never once pulled a punch. These two creators are not about prejudice; they just want to offend everyone.

The movie starts off in Paris, when a group of terrorists are planning to plant a bomb. It is at that moment when Team America makes their thunderous appearence. The depiction of Americans' use of ample gun fire and other such destructive weaponry was right on. Team America was so focused on dominating the terrorists that they disregarded all of the damage that they caused.

Not only is there gratuitous marionette murder, but there are love stories present as well. The super sappy love between these strung up characters was comical to say the least. I thought I would never stop laughing when I saw puppet on puppet action for the first time in my life. It was not only the sex itself, but the utter creativity in the positions that was absolutely hilarious.

"These two creators are not about prejudice; they just want to offend everyone."

The movie is jammed packed with government bashing, as well as a few good hits left for Michael Moore (creator of *Fahrenheit 9-11* and *Bowling for Columbine*). The focus of this movie is the devilish wishes of Kim Jong Il, the present leader of North Korea. He wants to take over and blow everything up, not out of anger like one would assume, but because he is "so lonely."

In any movie there has to be a hero. In this film, the person who comes to America's recue is an actor who utilizes his acting technique to save the American people from terrorism.

Trey Parker and Matt Stone are known for their personal attacks on famous persons, and they didn't fail any expectations in this movie. From "Matt Damon" to Susan Sarandon, they kept on coming with insults. Ben Afleck was even mentioned in a moment of reflection and song, along with his dire need for acting lessons. There is no way not to crack a smile when the big stars of Hollywood are being cracked on.

With the witty remarks, the not so witty references (but still funny as hell), and the occasional song segment, the movie gets full marks. I strongly encourage all who are American to give this movie a chance; you are bound to find at least one aspect of the movie interesting, if not amusing. Even if the humor is "below" your level, there is always the puppet on puppet fornication, and everyone's got to appreciate that.

Not so lucky at Lucky's

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

When I was fourteen years of age, I watched a movie called Strangeland. In this movie there was a rather graphic description of a piercing called the ampallang. I can only (appropriately) say that the piercing sounded rather painful.

This would probably have deterred most normal children, but not me. I was fascinated, having already been brought into the world of body modification. At the time I only had my eyebrow pierced, but I knew that one day, I would be getting the ampallang. That day came, ladies and gentlemen. Oh yes, It came about four months ago when I had some extra money in my pocket and a strong desire to feel a kind of pain I had never experienced before. I called up my trusted piercer, Penelope Silverstein of Lucky's Tattoo and Piercing, in Northampton. My voice was shaky as I asked her when she could pierce me. She told me to come in the next day, and she would be waiting.

The rest of my day was spent mentally preparing myself for what was to come. I knew it would be no easy feat, but I also knew that this was something I had to experience. I told my Mom about it, who was instantly supportive. The next day, I went into Lucky's Tattoo and Piercing, and waited in line for a woman to speak with me. She asked me what I wanted to get pierced and I told her; my penis. Now, as it happens, there are many different piercings you can get down there, so she gave me a pamphlet to look through and decide which one I wanted, and I obviously chose the ampallang. Then I sat down and waited for Lady Penelope to come out and do her usual line of questioning. She looked on my little chart and saw that I wanted the ampallang and asked me if I was sure if I wanted to get this one. I told her that I was sure, because it looked less painful than the Prince Albert. "Actually," she told me "the ampallang is the most painful piercing a male can get."

At this point I felt a pang of nervousness, but still thought the ampallang would look better on me (because what is a piercing's purpose, if not aesthetics?) than any of the others and so I made my final decision. I sat on the stool for a minute while she prepped the operating room. I was nervous as hell, which was different; usually I am pretty excited when I know I'm going to be touched by a woman. Who could blame me, though?

Then it was time. I followed Penelope down the hallway and into the operating room (apparently, the ampallang is worthy of the title of "operation") and sat down on the chair. I hadn't got stoned or anything, but I had the worst cottonmouth in the world. To alleviate this problem, I was given a juice box! How sweet! Next came the awkward part. "You're going to need to pull your pants down, sweetie," it was go-time. I did as she asked, as would anyone who ever fell under her mesmerizing gaze, and I sat down in the chair. She kneeled down before me and grabbed her trusty sharpie. Then, very carefully, she picked a spot on my, umm... friend, and she made the marks. Then she made sure they were even on both sides of my head. Oh, and for those of you who wonder, it is impossible to get wood when you know that it will have a ten-gauge needle stuck through it. I saw the size of the needle and chuckled to myself, wondering why in the hell I would pay for such a torturous exercise to be performed on my own body, never mind its extremities.

"You're going to feel a pinching when I do this," boy was that the understatement of the year! "Just take three deep breaths and on the third one, I am going to pierce it, okay?" I nodded, feeling understandably nervous. First breath, oh my God. Second breath, Jesus Christ. Third Breath, OOOOOOWWWW!! I had watched the events unfold and though the pain was entirely different than the lip, the eyebrow, the tongue, or the nipples, it was not unbearable. The worst part was when she had to slide the needle all the way through, to get the barbell through. By the way, I've had my tongue pierced, and the barbell through my head will dwarf probably any barbell you have ever seen, I mean, this thing is thick! After the barbell was through, Penelope grabbed some gauze and started soaking up the blood that had come seeping out of my newly formed hole.

Man, I'll tell you what, the pain you will receive from this piercing is incredible. It gives you that adrenaline rush that will make you feel like a god. After it was all over and done with, I laughed. That's right, I laughed, I felt like I was on top of the world, which I have come to understand is how many men feel about their ampallang when they get them. Penelope informed me that now that I had this piercing, I would get respect from the piercing community, because as she had told me earlier, this was no boy scout piercing. Now I was a full blown Weblow!

This wasn't even painful compared to what happened after I left the piercing room, huge smile on my face. I walked up to the counter to pay my bill and forked over 80 bucks. Most piercings run to 41 dollars but when you get such a delicate piercing, special jewelry is required. Unlike a tongue ring, which I'm sure one of your friends could show you, the ball does not screw onto the barbell. The ball is

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In Her Shoes gets a good review

BY KRISTEN ESPOSITO
VOICE REPORTER

Sisters Rose and Maggie Feller have nothing in common. Rose is a thirty-year old high-powered attorney who has a passion for romance and an infatuation with unhealthy foods.

She spends her days dreaming of the perfect man who will tell her she is gorgeous and make her life complete.

Maggie, the beautiful twenty eight-year old, dreams of being a Hollywood star, making millions, and being loved by all.

In reality Maggie is far from becoming her dream. The longest she has ever held a job is a few weeks and she enjoys living off her older sister who she has less then a perfect relationship with.

Their relationship is tested to the limits after Rose walks in on her sister and boyfriend sleeping together in Rose's bed. After this devastating blow, Rose vows never to speak to Maggie again. During this time the two sisters find out that life has unexpected turns and unexpected people that help them to find their true selves.

Jennifer Weiner- Author of *In Her Shoes*

Unexpected characters find their way into the novel and in the end Rose and Maggie realize that the bond of sisters cannot be broken.

In Her Shoes is a fun beach read, but does not compare to Weiner's first book *Good in Bed*. This book will make the reader want to finish but at certain points is a bit slow.

Weiner also has a gift of making her characters come to life.

Rose and Maggie are two women who make the reader laugh along with them and also sympathize with them through all the pain that they are going through and have experienced.

This is a book that deals with difficult issues of life but puts a humorous and fun twist to it. Old characters from Weiner's previous novel, *Good in Bed*, make an appearance, and it is fun to see how Weiner incorporates their old tale into the story.

Weiner is also the author of *Good in Bed* and has recently come out with Little Earthquakes. If you like Weiner's style I also recommend books by Jane Green, such as Babyrille and Straight Talking.

Lucky's

get them. Penelope informed me that now that I had this piercing, I would get respect from the piercing community, because as she had told me earlier, this was no boy scout piercing. Now I was a full blown Weblow!

This wasn't even painful compared to what happened after I left the piercing room, wearing huge smile on my face. I walked up to the counter to pay my bill and forked over 80 bucks. Most piercings run to $41 but when you get such a delicate piercing, special jewelry is required. Unlike a tongue ring, which I'm sure one of your friends could show you, the ball does not screw onto the barbell. The ball is what is threaded, and it screws into the barbell. This is why they are called internally threaded barbells.

However, the experience was worth the money, and I had been sexually frustrated anyway, so at least I got to be touched by a woman! That was nice. A sadistic woman maybe, but hot nonetheless (that is, if you like the type of woman who gets plates attached to her skull so she can screw horns into her head, or the type of woman who does body modification experiments on herself, including implants under the second layer of skin). I definitely recommend that those of you with a sense of adventure get this done. I like it so much; I am now considering a Jacob's ladder.

I have yet to go back to my beloved Lucky's, but I know that I will. I have been getting piercings done for four years and of all the places I have been, I like Lucky's the most. Everybody there is nice, they will not hesitate to answer any questions you may have, and beyond that, it's not that far away from our home-away-from-home here at Westfield State. If you thought this story was fun, then keep your eyes peeled, because I plan on getting a piercing a month, starting in a couple months, and writing reviews on them. If anyone has any suggestions on what I should pierce next, I am always open to new ideas (besides, that's how I got my lip pierced, by a suggestion from a friend). Until next time, remember that anarchy on the body is fun!!

REEL BIG FISH
The Webster Theatre, Hartford, CT
November 19, 2004

MTG presents *Guys and Dolls*

BY EMILY RANSOM
VOICE REPORTER

Before the actors begin the performance of "Guys and Dolls" they mill about making final tweaks to their costumes. "I want to see it from here up, show your emotion from here up," choreographer Kayla Armstrong encourages while gesturing from the waist up.

Guys and Dolls opened Thursday November 6 and ran through Saturday. A plotline centered around gamblers with a hidden craps game in New York with a bet to get a female missionary to Havana is relevant even today, especially today when games like poker and betting is on a revival.

Shira Simon was the student director and anticipated the show greatly. The casting was clearly the best aspect of the show. These students seem born for the roles they were cast in.

Peter Rizzo is a freshman, new to the musical theater guild, and he took his first role and ran with it. A pleasant demeanor and genuine disposition made his role as "Nicely Nicely" quite appropriate.

Rizzo and John Schell who played "Charlie Rusty" were just too cute in their vests and ties. Their opening song was very well done. Anyone lucky enough to catch Broadway Comes to Westfield heard this as a sneak peak.

Emily Goodwin, another stellar freshman, performed the role of "Sarah Brown".

Goodwin showcased her talented voice early at orientation when judges voted her
into the finals for Westfield Idol.

Her talented singing voice is her strongest asset. Whether her personality mirrors her role, she was a very believable "Sarah Brown."

"Nathan Detroit" played by Mike Duffy was solid. Duffy has an interesting stage presence that seems understated, or calm yet attention of the audience is easily cast on him.

Lindsay Holland was the most perfect "Adelade" ever in an amateur cast. She had the voice down and she was adorable in this role. Her convincing portrayal of this fun character reflects a level of maturity and reflects a capacity to go even bigger.

"Sky Masterson," performed by Jay Brewster, was unbelievable. The audience probably left wondering where he had been for previous musical theater guild shows. He knew his character inside and out and proved it through everything he did. Every song he sang, every action he made captivated the audience.

Students on campus might recognize him from coffee houses where he sings along to his guitar, but WSC will expect more to come from this student star.

Another star the WSC community will appreciate seeing again is Dan Lindgren as "Big Jule." Once again, prefect casting, or another actor rose to the occasion.

Schell as "Charlie Rusty" was one of the best dancers with equally brilliant vocals making him a true asset to the show. He is an actor who seems on and ready for everything every time he is physically on stage.

Brian Fields played Sarah Brown's grandfather and although it is subdued, his
talent is adequately reflected.

The supporting rolls were well done, and the chorus was strong. If the emotion and energy from the middle of act one made it beginning to end then the show could have been one of the best musicals on campus in the past few years.

Unfortunately, the props and costumes did not adequately mirror the talents of the actors. The vocals and casting was amazing. Choreography was well done, but not always in sync, which was really the only thing missing.

Mission impossible: Complete

"THIS OWL'S HOWL"
BY JOHN DESCHENES
SPORTS COLUMNIST

You all know it by now, the Red Sox swept the Cardinals to win their first World Series Championship since 1918. Eighty-six years of disappointment was finally enough. You know I predicted the Sox would beat the Yankees in seven games, but I never expected them to do it coming from a 3-0 deficit. I certainly didn't expect the "idiots" to win the World Series without trailing ONCE. It was all so anti-climactic. Part of me wanted the Cardinals to put up a fight, but I did find myself biting my nails in the 6th inning of game four. Given the Red Sox's history, I realized I didn't want any more drama; I just wanted it to be over. Hoping for the series to return to Fenway was just being too greedy.

The 2004 playoffs taught me a few things. I learned you really do need a large number of guys to contribute. Sure the Yankees had some great players, but the Red Sox were deeper. The Sox had better overall hitting and much better pitching. Just think about how many guys actually contributed to the Sox in the postseason. I could go through all of the contributions from each player, but it would take forever. The Sox truly won the World Series as a team. A lot of people deserve credit for this: John Henry for spending the money, Theo Epstein for spending Henry's money wisely, Terry Francona for managing the team he was given appropriately, and Larry Lucchino for helping in the hiring of Theo Epstein and Terry Francona. I'm sure there are many people behind the scenes who deserve credit as well.

I want to focus on Francona. It isn't easy managing in Boston; everyone thinks they can do a better job than the current manager. That's just the way it is, and it's been that way for years. Last year Grady Little was the scapegoat, and in the off-season the Sox added Keith Foulke and Curt Schilling. The Red Sox were actual ly picked to beat out the Yankees and ultimately win the World Series. No pressure there, eh? Francona managed one game and he was already being criticized. He was criticized because Pedro Martinez left Camden Yards early on opening day. He told the media that he didn't communicate the rules to Pedro very well, and that Martinez was not at fault. Francona actually took the blame for the misunderstanding even though it is well known that you aren't supposed to leave your team early without permission. It's just an unwritten rule throughout baseball. One game into his managerial career in Boston, Francona was already being called too "soft" to manage here.

The Red Sox were playing .500 baseball for a good portion of the season. Guys like Kevin Millar and Derek Lowe were struggling. The Sox were also hurt by injuries to Nomar Garciaparra, Trot Nixon, and Bill Mueller. Francona didn't panic, he stayed the course. He stuck with Millar and Lowe knowing that they would contribute eventually. He also knew guys would be coming back from injuries and that Theo Epstein would improve the team at the trade deadline. Francona knew what his team was capable of.

Wouldn't you know it; the Sox went on a hot streak from the middle of August to early September. Francona knew his team would come around. He had them in perfect position for a playoff run, and when they got there he made sure he helped them win.

Francona managed unbelievably well in the playoffs. Just think of all the great decisions he made throughout the playoffs. In game three against Anaheim he didn't pinch run for Ortiz when he could have in the late innings. Ortiz went on to win the game for the Sox with a walkoff homerun. Look at how well he managed his pitching staff down 3-0 to the Yankees. His bullpen was outstanding because Francona put them in the right situations. Deciding to use Derek Lowe as a starter turned out to be a brilliant move, as did sticking with Mark Bellhorn and Johnny Damon. The bottom line is Francona out-managed three of the best managers in baseball. Mike Scioscia, Joe Torre, and Tony LaRussa all have won at least one World Series as a manager. Now Terry Francona has too.

Another thing I learned is that the Yankee mystique from a few years ago is gone. Guys like Tino Martinez, Scott Brosius, Paul O'Neill, and Chuck Knoblauch were perfect team players for the Yankees. These guys have all moved on. Andy Pettitte, the one constant in the Yankee rotation is also gone. The great bullpen the Yankees used to have is now down to just Mariano Rivera. Derek Jeter is still there, but the character guys around him aren't the same as they used to be. The Yankees should try to sign character guys, not guys like Mr. BALCO and A-Fraud. Things just haven't been the same since the Yankees lost game 7 of the 2001 World Series.

Has anybody heard from George Steinbrenner? I can just picture George in Tampa right now. He is in an underground building wearing an Army helmet. He has summoned all of his "baseball people" to this secret meeting. Here he introduces his plan to beat the Red Sox next year: "Okay, we're forcing Giambi to retire. Tell him we will buy out his contract. He can be the team mascot for all I care; I mean he does look like the Grinch. I want Varitek as our new 1st baseman. If Piazza can do it, why can't he? Bernie will move to DH and I want Beltran in centerfield. Hey, Cashman! I thought you said Brown and Vazquez were good pitchers? Christ, even I could pitch more than 1/3 innings. See if we can't get Martinez and Lowe in here. That old, fat bastard Zimmer is gone, so we don't have to worry about any fights between him and Petey. Garciaparra is a free agent too, and we could use a 2nd baseman. I'll address the bullpen tomorrow. You guys know what to do."

Finally, one curse has come to an end while another has started (I don't really believe in curses). The Red Sox just didn't have good enough pitching in the past, which is why they kept losing. They acquired the pitching they needed this year to win, and that is why the "curse" came to an end. i would like to have a little fun with the following thought: The Curse of AFraud. A-Fraud wore #3 while in Texas, and asked Steinbrenner if he could wear #3 in New York. Steinbrenner was amazed that A-Fraud could ask such a stupid question as Babe Ruth wore that number. There is no way in hell the Yankees would un-retire the number of the best player of all time. Babe Ruth allegedly rolled over in his grave when A-Fraud asked this question. The rest is history folks. Obviously this didn't happen, but with a little help from each of you we can get this rumor out there. Let the Curse of A-Fraud live on!

NEW YORK BUS TRIP!

December 4th
Pick-up in front of Scanlon Hall at 7:00a.m.
Pick-up in NYC at 8:00p.m.
Return to Westfield by 12:00a.m.

92 Open Seats

$5 per ticket with student ID

Limit 2 tickets per person
Sign up at the teller window in Ely between Nov. 8th & Nov. 24th. After the 24th ticket sold, seats will open up to faculty & staff.

Attention Student Veterans

General Interest Meeting
Veterans Group

Tuesday, November 9, 2004
4 PM, Ely Room 130

*Are you a veteran of military status or currently still serving in a branch of the military?

*Have you recently returned from active duty/combat duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other parts of the world?

*Would you like to be able to meet others with similar military experiences?

A new group is forming to support and meet the needs of veteran students!

If you are interested in joining this group, please consider attending the general interest meeting on
Tuesday, November 9th at 4PM in Ely 130.

Meczywor Sets Record In Victory At Maine Maritime

CASTINE, Me. – Senior quarterback Jon Meczywor (Lanesboro, Mass.) completed a school record 25 passes and threw for 298 yards and a touchdown to lead Westfield State to a 17-14 victory over Maine Maritime Academy in New Engtand Football Conference action Oct. 30.

The victory improved Westfield's record to 5-3 and assured the Owls of their fourth straight winning season. Maine Maritime, which upset Worcester State last week, falls to 2-6,

Meczywor played well despite being sidelined for the past two weeks with an injury. And it was a homecoming of sorts for the 6-5, 225-pound signal caller who played his first three years at the University of Maine in nearby Orono.

Meczywor's 25 completions are three more than the previous record of 22 set by Chris Lapointe last season. He attempted 42 passes, six shy of Lapointe single-game record of 48 attempts. He also had 30 yards rushing on six carries

Junior wide receiver B.J. Holleran (Quincy) also had a monster game for the Owls with 12 catches for 139 yards; the receptions were one shy of the single-game school record of 13 catches by Matt Yvon in 2001.

Maine Maritime, which racked up 269 rushing yards on 54 carries in its option offense, quickly took a 7-0 lead 50 seconds into the game. The Mariners marched 81 yards in three plays, with quarterback Patrick Bard – who had a game-high 103 yards rushing on 26 carries - scoring on a two-yard run. The big play in the opening drive was a 68-yard run by Scott Lasse to the two-yard line.

Westfield took the ensuing kickoff and marched 71 yards in 10 plays, with junior fullback Mark Puchalski scoring from one yard out. The Owls took a 14-7 lead with 1:17 left in the first quarter on an 11-yard touchdown reception by senior David Trueira.

The Mariners tied the score, 14-14, with 2:12 left in the first half, as Chelsea Allen's five-yard run capped a 5-play, 39-yard drive.

The Owls scored the game-winning points with 9:44 remaining in the third quarter on freshman Garret Davis' (Belchertown) 37-yard field goal that capped a 7-play, 23-yard drive.

The Owls were able to contain the Mariners' option offense by recovering four fumbles, including a key fumble recovery by senior standout Jessie Holmes at their own 34 yard line with 2:24 remaining in the contest.

Jim Fennelly led Westfield with 13 tackles, including 12 solo stops. Matt Wooliver and Ryan Togneri each had eight tackles.

Westfield State To Host NCAA Championship

The NCAA Division III field hockey championship will be held at Westfield State College's Alumni Field on Nov. 19-20. The semifinal games will be held at 2 and 5 p.m. on Nov. 19, and the championship game will be played at 3 p.m. on Nov. 20. In addition,the National Field Hockey Coaches Association will hold a senior all-star game on Nov. 20 al 11 a.m. Helping to promote lhe event from Westfield Slate are pictured, left to right: assistant athletics director Nancy Bals, field hockey senior players Laura Scott and Kendra Newell, and field hockey head coach Healher Cabral. Tickels can be purchased by calling 413-572-5405. Ticket prices are $10 for adults and $6 for siudents for a two-day pass, and $7 for adults and $4 for students for one day. Youth groups rales are available. The championship will feature the top four Division III field hockey leams in the nation. Westfield Stale hosted the first championship game in 1981. "We are thrilled and honored to host lhis event. It is a greal event for the college and the community," said Bals. "The level of competition and the excitement of the games will surpass the expectations of many." *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Fennelly Named Player Of Week

Westfield State College junior linebacker Jim Fennelly (Wilmington) was named the New England Football Conference Defensive Player of the Week for Nov. 1, 2004.

The 5-11, 220-pound transfer from Division II University of Missouri Rolla posted 13 tackles, including 12 solo stops, and forced a fumble in a 17-14 victory at Maine Maritime Academy on Oct. 30.

The Owls improved their record to 5-3 for their fourth consecutive winning season. Westfield concluded its season with a non-divisional game at Curry College on Nov. 6. Curry is 7-1 overall and will play Fitchburg State in the NEFC championship game on Nov. 13.

Jim Fennelly

Four more Westfield State athletes were named to weekly honor rolls, most notably quarterback **Jon Meczywor** (Lanesboro).

The 6-5, 225-pound signal caller returned from an injury in fine fashion as he set a school record with 25 pass completions in the victory over Maine Maritime. The University of Maine transfer completed 25 of 42 passes for 298 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed six times for 30 yards.

Men's soccer senior defender **Jay Jeffrey** (Bangor, ME) scored the lone goal in the Owls' tough 2-1 overtime setback to conference champion Worcester State.

Senior Amy Svatik (Stratford, CT) recorded 29 digs in a 3-0 regular season loss to conference volleyball champion Bridgewater State. The Owls played Bridgewater State again Nov. 6 in the semifinals of the conference tournament.

In field hockey, freshman **Megan Wolski** was recognized for scoring two goals in a 4-0 victory over Anna Maria.

Framingham Edges Owls, 2-1

Framingham State scored on a penalty corner with no time remaining to defeat Westfield State, 2-1, in the quarterfinals of the Little East Conference field hockey tournament on Nov. 2 in Framingham.

Framingham, the No. 4 seed, improved to 10-6 while Westfield, the No. 5 seed finished its season with a 11-6 record, a remarkable turnaround from the Owls' 3-13 record last year.

Westfield scored first with 12 minutes remaining in the first half when sophomore Kate Anderson fired a shot past the FSC goalie.

The Rams struggled offensively in the first half, but had a chance to tie the game just before halftime when they were awarded a penalty stroke. Junior Jenn Johnson took the stroke but goalie Kendra Newell made one of her 14 saves to preserve the Owls' 1-0 lead.

The Rams picked up the intensity in the second half and were able to generate more scoring chances. Freshman Ashley Flood deflected a shot from Johnson into the net just over five minutes into the second half to the tie score.

The Rams were awarded a penalty corner with the clock winding down and Johnson scored her 18th goal of the season and the game winner with no time left on the clock on a pass from Lisa Ranalli.

With the goal, Johnson established herself as the Rams' all-time leading scorer and set a single-season mark for goals.

Wenninger Paces Cross Country

Cross Country Places Third

NORTH DARTMOUTH – The Westfield State men's and women's cross country teams both finished third in the New England Alliance championships on Oct. 30.

Junior Heather Wenninger of Chicopee paced the Owls, finishing second with a time of 18:41 over the 3.1 mile course. Keene State junior Erin Landon won in t8:33.

The Westfield women totaled 79 points in the 10-team meet, trailing Keene State (24) and Southern Maine (73).

Also earning all-conference honors for Westfield by placing in the top 20 was fifth-year senior Aimee Worcester (18th, 20:36). Junior Marissa Blume finished 22nd in 20:47, followed by freshman Kim Grant (27th, 20:57), sophomore Alison Wesolowski (28th, 21:06), and freshman Amanda Baker (31st, 21:13).

In the 12-team men's meet, Westfield compiled 112 points, trailing Keene State (23) and Southern Maine (78). Keene State senior Dave Bridgewater won the five-mile race in 24:41.

Westfield's top finisher was sophomore Nathan Cristofori (21st, 27:10), followed by freshman Andy Messer (26th, 27:32), freshman John Messer (28th, 27:32), senior Matt Frederick (29th, 27:37), and freshman Chris Cuff (30th, 27:41).

College Women's Soccer

Worcester 1 – Westfield 0

WESTFIELD – Freshman forward Tiffany Rotatori scored with 2:35 remaining to lead Worcester State to a 1-0 double overtime victory over Westfield State in women's soccer action Oct. 30.

Worcester State improved to 9-6-2 overall and 3-2-1 in the conference in qualifying for the Mass. State Conference postseason tournament. Westfield, which needed a victory to earn a spot in the tournament, finishes 6-8-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the conference.

With the Owls playing for the win, Rotatori scored on a breakaway goal with an assist from freshman Lauren Cush.

College Women's Swimming

Westfield 159 – Simmons 124

WESTFIELD – The Westfield State women's swimming and diving team opened its season with a 159-124 victory over Simmons College on Oct. 30.

Junior standout Vanessa Morton was a triple winner for Westfield, placing first in the 200 freestyle, the 100 butterfly, and the 100 freestyle.

Also finishing first were: Rachel Webb (1000 freestyle), Lindsey Bartosz (50 backstroke and 100 backstroke), Katie Piquette (50 breaststroke), Marianne Wilson (diving), Melissa Blain (50 freestyle), Renee Kruszyna (500 freestyle), and Shannon McMahon (50 butterfly).

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL LEAGUE CHAMPS!

WIFFLE BALL: Gridiron Boyz

1 PITCH SOFTBALL: Skilled-IBK Highly Skilled-Your Mother

FLAG FOOTBALL: Skilled-Blumpkin Highly Skilled-Congamond

3-3 BASKETBALL: Skilled-Blumpkin Highly Skilled-Legends

VOLLEYBALL: Mens-Ballz Deep Women-Quad Life Girls

WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL WINNERS: The Quzzlers

Anyone interested in Extreme Dodgeball (Men or Women) Please Contact the IM office.

Dodgeball will be happening in the New Woodward Center.

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

COME VISIT THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE AND SEE WHAT TEAM YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NOW!

BANACOS ROAD RACE

10K (6.2 Miles)

Sunday Nov. 21st @ 12p.m.

Starting at the Woodward Center

$6.00 for Students

All Runners Receive A Free T-Shirt

Your Intrumural Team Gets An Extra 10 oints Towards The Banacos Cup!!

IM Department is Now Accepting Rosters For:

5-5 Basketball (M&W)

Co-ed Volleyball

Co-ed Water Polo

Soccer (M&W)

Billiards (M&W)

Anyone Interested in Intramural Lacrosse (Men or Women)

Please Contact the IM Office in Parenzo Gym (P-169) (Right Under the BBall Hoop)

This is DEFINITELY HAPPENING - we will have an IM Lacrosse League.

If you have any questions please contact: Coach Rich Fului @ Laxgoal28@comcast.net

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm
Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS INTERMURALS BOARD!!

President: Andrew Smith
Vice President: Matt Dissell
Secretary-Jen Lawrence

Members At Large:

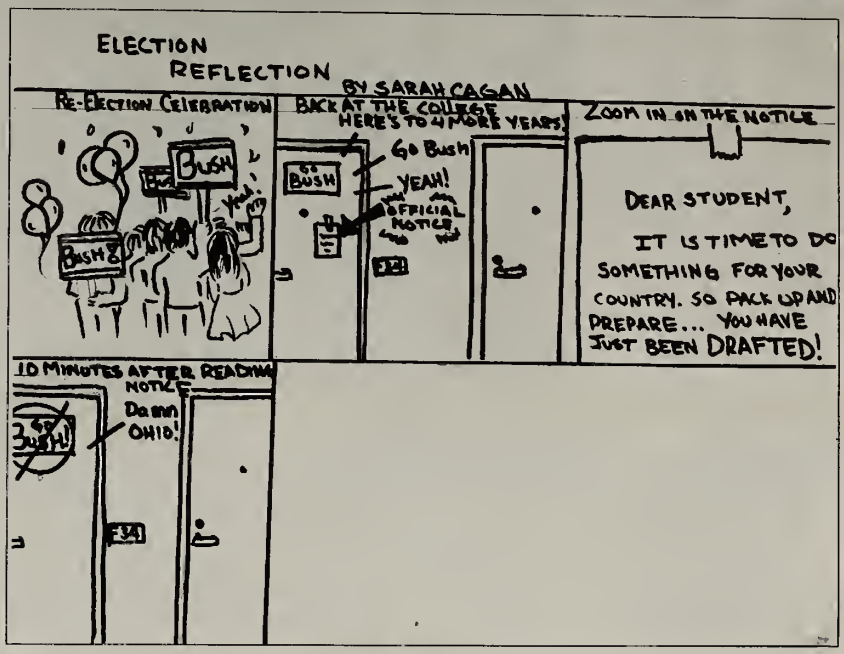
Kyle Piazza, Liz Oliveira, Jason Tileston, Matty Benoit, Steve Sawyer, Kevin Sheehan, Dwight Spradley, Jacques Moret, C.C. Costello, John Meineke, Marcus Henry & Jeff Ford

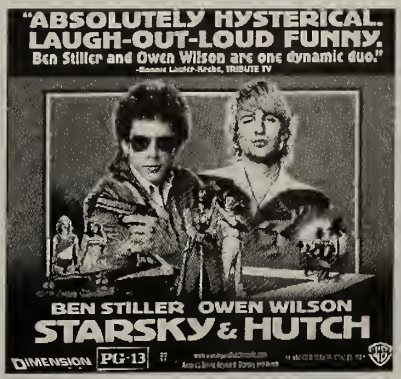
Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

"I am thankful that Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen are turning 18 soon. Not so that they'll be legal for me, but so that all of the pathetic introverts who don't stand a chance with these Uber-rich twins will quit pretending age is the only thing that prevents them from scoring. "

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page @ www.collegehumor.com

You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots* -- Check your local bookstore.





The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks

11/1 - Fahrenheit 9/11 & Enternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
11/2 - Van helsing & Secret Window
11/3 - The whole 10 Yards & 13 Going On 30
11/4 - Godsend & Jersey Girl
11/5-7 - Hellboy & Enternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Movies Start at 8pm on Chs. 70 & 71

Campus Activites Board

presents

Coffee House

Live Music - Free Coffee
Ely Main Lounge
Wednesday - 8pm

WSC Athletics This Week

Good Luck to All Our Teams In Tournaments This Week!

Mon 11/01	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	MASSPIRG's Get out the Vote Phonebank - Ely 130 - 6:30pm	Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm
Tue 11/02	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	RAD Class - 333 Gardeo Room - 5pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30p LAFE Meeting - LAFE Room - 7pm
Wed 11/03	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool SGA Sponsored Legal Services - Ely 232 - 3pm	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm Weekend Programing Meeting -	SGA Room - 5:45pm CAB Coffeehouse - EML - 8pm
Thurs 11/04	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	RAD Class - Juniper Park Studio - 6pm	"Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm
Fri 11/05	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	"Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm	Class of 2005's Senior Night - Alcohol Services Available (21+ Only) - TWR - 8pm-Midnight
Sat 11/06	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight "Guys & Dolls" - Dever Aud. - 7:30pm	**Sun 11/07**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Team America, review, yeah pg. 10

Arrests made at Red Sox 'riot' pg. 1

Student voters disenfranchised at WSC pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | November 15, 2004 | Issue X

MassPIRG deals with voter mishap

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

At least two dozen Westfield State College students were turned away from the polls November 2nd because the state was unable to handle the thousands of new voter registrations.

The rules for registering to vote in Massachusetts called for voter registration forms sent to the State House to be distributed to each town or city by the State. Voter applications, which come in two forms, national and state were to be postmarked by October 13th in order to be processed for election day.

The State House, in response to the increased voter registration changed its protocol to accept only national forms, according to Angela Francis MassPIRG Campus Coordinator for Westfield State.

The outside of the MassPIRG office was vandalized,in the days following the election, with letters of outrage, as well as the tearing down of MassPIRG posters.

Francis pointed out the lack of knowledge that poll workers had of the Helping Americans Vote Act (HAVA).

"If you insist that you are registered the poll workers should know under HAVA a provisional ballot should be provided," said

Masspirg-Page 2

L.A.F.E. Fashion/Talent show entertains students in Dever

By Sarah Cagan
A&E Editor

On November 10th, L.A.F.E. and Third World threw a Talent/ Fashion show in Dever auditorium. It started at 8:30 p.m. with a few original songs by Matt Paige. Originally, the cost of entrance was $3 per person without a W.S.C. student ID and $1 for W.S.C. students, but crowds were sparse so the clubs let all in for free. Though the number of people attending was less then expected the show went on. After Paige finished his acoustic melodies, the first fashion scene began.

"The Formal Scene" was well planned out, as the models entered from behind the audience, swaying to soft R&B. There were some awkward pauses when one song ended, but all in all the models carried themselves well in their tailored suits and stunning gowns.

The Urban Gospel Choir also graced the Dever auditorium stage. This group was definitely a crowd pleaser, with their various octaves and well organized vocals. There were many other singers that surprised the crowd with their ability.

Fashion Show - Page 2

-Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

The members of the Music Theater Guild celebrate after a successful run of the musical "Guys and Dolls" held in Dever Auditorium. The musical ran from Thursday November 4th to Saturday November 6th.

Professors rock out on the radio

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College students shouldn't attend Asst. Prof. Elizabeth Stassinos' "Office Hours" Monday afternoons with questions concerning criminal justice.

Instead, students should tune into WSKB 89.5 FM every week from 4 to 6 p.m. to hear what Stassinos and WSC faculty guests has/have to say about their favorite music.

"We've done several shows," Stassinos said. "I've gotten a lot of e-mail for the show and we are getting a lot of faculty and staff to participate."

The first show was a mixture of punk and country music. Stassinos played songs by artists like Lucinda Williams, Johnny Cash, and Gillian Welch and discussed them with faculty members of both the music and psychology departments.

Prof. William Cook of Criminal Justice inspired one week's show informally entitled "70's and Protest Rock." Neil Young, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, and Janis Joplin dominated the airwaves.

There was also a show on musicals and soundtracks. Stassinos, along with Asst. Prof. Kimberly Tobin, played songs from shows such as *Annie*, *Grease*, and *Saturday Night Fever*.

"The point of the show was to get faculty and staff to do radio shows and introduce themselves to students and the wider community through their favorite music." Stassinos said.

Stassinos played on live radio at the University of Virgina as both an undergraduate and graduate student, primarily playing the acoustic guitar. She also performed at Smith College for a Sylvia Plath concert a few years ago.

Stassinos said that "It was really fun."

When Stassinos began teaching at W.S.C., she immediately spoke to students in charge

WSKB - Page 2

SGA claims neutrality in contract dispute

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution that stated Student Government would not advocate on behalf of the faculty or staff on their union contracts on Tuesday November 9.

The official stance of SGA on the issue is one of neutrality.

The resolution was passed after much debate about whether or not the final two sentences should be included. Members of SGA eventually voted to strike the sentences from the resolution.

The stricken sentences read, "Individual members of the Student Government Association may use their titles in giving support of the Union if they choose to do so. However, the official stance of the Student Government Associaiton as a whole is one of neutrality."

Dr. Jon Conlogue, Director of Residential Life addressed SGA with a few issues pertaining to the new dorm being built in between Davis and Courtney halls. Conlogue said the new dorm hall would have 4 and 6 person apartments both complete

SGA-Page 3

Wanted: Student Member for the Board of Higher Education. See the application on page 14.

Interested in saving a buck or two? Find out which stores will save you the most money in our new column on page 11.

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Fashion/Talent

The eclectic collection of songs that were performed ranged from Spanish ballads to Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," as well as a little hip-hop.

Members of the Third World Organization performed a dance routine that included guest performers who danced from one end of the stage to the next.

The show was running smoothly until the end of a skit in which there was a dancer on the stage. The dancer was in the middle of his routine when the music cut out. This could have been planned, though he looked a little lost and confused. Minor glitches such as this appeared throughout different portions of the show.

The confusion of the microphones was a minor glitch that upset the even pattern of the show. While some singers preferred the hand held, many people required the stand setups. There was a little confusion as they had to reset the stage for every act, and sometimes ended up misplacing certain microphones.

There were also some sound struggles, that one singer had to deal with. The background music was set higher than the microphone; therefore, drowning out the performer's voice. There was a constant juggle for sound and setting to synthesize with the people on stage.

Though there were a few malfunctions and a small audience, the people walking out of the auditorium seemed pleased, and the people in the show had a blast. The show was a good way to boost the minority clubs on campus, and everyone seemed to enjoy the process.

Photo by Sarah Cagan

Junior Matt Paige sang his original melodies accompanied by his acoustic guitar last Wednesday, Nov. 10th at the L.A.F.E. Talent/Fashion Show in Dever Auditorium.

Masspirg

Francis.

The State House changed the rules after MassPIRG had already handed in a large amount of applications, including those acquired at Westfield's Voter Registration Rally held in late September.

Due to the back up at the State House, some cities, including Westfield did not receive the completed forms until October 27th.

Karen Fanion of the Clerk's Office at Westfield City Hall said that the application were postmarked on October 15th from Boston and therefore missed the deadline by two days.

Fanion said that the forms did not need to be sent to the State House and should have been sorted and mailed to each respective town. "They should have sent Westfield forms to Westfield. If they had a rally at Westfield State, why did they send them to Boston?" said Fanion. "I have no idea why they were sent to Boston."

Fanion said in Westfield alone, around 20-25 students were not able to vote.

Francis said that after all the finger pointing is said and done, the fault ultimately lies with the State House not with MassPIRG. "Its about the state completely shirking its responsibilities," said Francis.

Francis also said that some forms were filled out improperly and so could not be processed. According to Francis, some of the forms were filled out in pencil, making it hard to read and often times information such as Social Security and phone numbers were absent. "Makes me question if they wanted to be registered in the first place," said Francis. Fanion hopes that MassPIRG will learn from this to go over their procedures of registering new voters.

"They should have sent Westfield forms to Westfield. If they had a rally at Westfield State, why did they send them to Boston, I have no idea why they were sent to Boston."
-Karen Fanion

Francis insists the fault does not lie with MassPIRG. "I feel like I can't take any responsibility if they were turned away," said Francis. "This is a huge, huge, huge fault of the state."

You would think this could have been prevented," said Francis. MassPIRG is setting up a Voter Disenfranchisement list and encourages those who were turned away at the polls to sign. This list will be sent to Secretary of State William Galvin.

W.S.K.B.

of WSKB about ideas for her show.

They all "thought that a faculty picks show would be really fun," Stassinos said.

Stassinos is very pleased with the turnout of "Office Hours." She said "It's a way for me to think about music for two solid hours a week as a break from my routines."

From the Editor's Desk

Public Un-Safety?

First off, I'd like to apologize for lying to one of the shuttle bus drivers the other night. I have changed my mind and decided that the situation at hand was important to write about for several reasons, and not just to harp on your terrible driving skills. There are bigger issues at hand here, not just you.

This campus is extremely safe. Besides the occasional riot, reports of theft and violence seem to be nil. That can be contributed to many things, such as living in a small community, in which everyone knows everyone else, and there's always someone willing to rare you out. This is somewhat reassuring.

The college should be commended on the shuttle bus service and keeping students safe by offering them rides back and forth on those bitterly cold nights, or even if they're just too lazy to make the quarter-mile hike from South Lot back to campus. It's nice to know that having to park in South Lot isn't going to be that bad, considering we have an escort back to civilization. I think the system is wonderful, and extremely helpful to students. Most of the drivers I have come into contact with have been extremely polite, helpful and good drivers. But something, apparently, has gone awry.

Recently I have heard complaints from several students regarding a specific shuttle bus driver and his lack of driving skills. I myself have never had a problem, until the other night.

I experienced a very turbulent ride. After reminding the driver that I needed to be dropped at Ely, right before he missed the turn, he proceeded to slam on his brakes and make a sharp right turn, causing most of the students on the bus to fall out of their seats. A few words were exchanged which aren't necessary to repeat to all of you, but apparently he didn't take my comments too well and decided to "chat" about me with some students later on that night. But this is beside the point.

Later, I received two IMs about the same driver and his erratic driving adventures. According to these sources, the driver was trying to impress his friends by driving all sorts of funny, i.e. brake testing and speeding. These students were certainly not amused and were planning on reporting the events to public safety, all with hesitation, believing that their complaints would not be heard or acted upon. I agreed with their apprehension, but not doing anything might've just escalated the problem. I am unaware as to whether or not they did report any actions. But I certainly did.

Now I have to wonder what kind of action will be taken when it comes to these complaints, if they are proven to be true. I believe that my write-up (and anyone else's for that matter) ultimately ended up in the round file. Other students believe this as well. And these are supposed to be the ones who keep us safe?

After all, they have more important things to deal with, right?

The thing about Public Safety is that they are there with bells on when certain events take place. When students decide to get drunk and rowdy, you bet that they'll be at your door just waiting to hand out those worthless 5-5-50's. When you park in commuter lot while a South Lot sticker adorns your car, you bet your butt that there'll be a ticket stuck to your windshield faster than you can say "Oh, WONDERFUL."

They're also there when an editor gets locked out of Ely at 9 a.m. on a holiday and needs a set of keys ... But that's another story.

But what about issues that involve motor vehicles? What about dealing with a driver who decides that the bus is his own personal ride? Will actions be taken? Can students be guaranteed a safe and smooth ride back to their dorms at night?

I guess all this editor can say is that if these complaints aren't taken seriously or simply ignored, and a shuttle tips over due to bad driving, leaving the college with a mess of lawsuits, they can't say no one was warned.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

It's that time of year again. Holiday lights have been put up on the large pine tree in front of Ely. A large crane was used to drape the tree in lights.

SGA

with a kitchen, living room and bathroom.

The new resident halls will be for juniors and seniors only. Conlogue said Residential Life is taking early room reservations in December.

Conlogue also said there will be a "Davis Hall Lottery" where one male student and one female student from Davis will get to assemble their own group for an apartment spot in the new hall.

Like the current apartments the new ones will feature some dry rooms, some wet ones and some swing ones that start dry but turn wet when all residents turn 21.

President of SGA Matt Curren said that the prospect of future poker tournaments, "Does not look good." According to Massachusetts state law a tournament where money is donated to a group and a prize is awarded to the winner is considered gambling.

Kristin Miele gave the financial report. In the report Miele said the WSC Equestrian Club had requested $2840 for lessons and coaching fees. SGA voted in favor of allocating the money to the club.

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Construction continues on the new dorm hall at the break of dawn. The new dorm hall will be open on schedule for fall semester 2005 said Director of Residential Life Jon Conlogue at the latest SGA meeting.

Voice of the Week

Mike Duffy

Role in Guys and Dolls: Nathan Detroit

Number of years at WSC: Freshmen. He is currently undeclared but wants to possibly change to education and teach theater courses.

Favorite thing about WSC: Being in the play and the friends he has made from the cast. He loved being able to work with a talented group and seeing everyone's individual talent come together.

Favorite movie: *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* or *Willy Wonka.*

Favorite TV show: He doesn't really have one because he is too busy for TV.

Favorite Line from Guys and Dolls: "Get up you fat water buffalo."– Big Jule

How he got into acting: He started in high school and he loves taking on new characters. He says being here really enforced his interest in theater.

Mike Duffy is looking forward to a great year and more shows to come.

Compiled by: Bridget Gleason

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield

115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)

Phone Number: 568-0429

Sundays:
9:30a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

General Science Club T-Shirt Contest

The General Science Club will be sponsoring a "T-shirt Design Contest." The club will be accepting entries for a design and/or slogan. If you are chosen as a winner, you will win a free shirt. The entry forms are located in Wilson 319, where they are also to be dropped off. The last day to enter is November 18th; the winners will be announced November 23rd.

Rules:

* There will be a slogan and design division; participants may enter in both.
* Multiple entries are accepted.
* Club advisors and presidents vote on the winners.
* The contest is open to everyone.
* Entries must be science related as well as appropriate.
* No copy-write materials will be accepted.

Voices Overheard

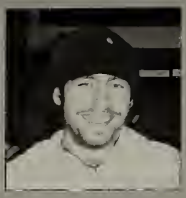
What do you think of The Voice this year?

Ryan Hadfield
Class of 2008
Business Management

"I like that it talks about future events and that they review events if you didn't go to them."

Elisabeth Haynes
Class of 2005
Music

"Use spellcheck before printing. Fewer opinion columns, more facts. Objective not subjective. I love the comic strip Pixel."



Erik Matheson
Class of 2008
Movement Science

"I want to see color!"

Julie Peloquin
Class of 2008
Music

"It's been really interesting. It's nice to be able to pick it up and see what's going on. It makes me laugh."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

Degon's Custom T's

Quality silk screened goods

Corey W. Degon
P.O. Box 306
Three Rivers, MA 10180

Phone: 413-433-0489
Fax: 413-283-8257
E-mail: degonscustomts@yahoo.com
Website: www.degonscustomts.com

Ashcroft, Evans to Leave Cabinet

BY DAN EGGEN
MILE ALLEN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON–John Ashcroft, the combative attorney general whose anti-terrorism policies made him the focus of a fierce national debate over civil liberties, resigned Tuesday along with Commerce Secretary Don Evans, one of President Bush's closest friends.

The departure of Ashcroft, 62, marks the exit of one of the most controversial and influential figures of Bush's first term. Ashcroft provided reliable fodder for Democrats on the campaign trail and served as a visible representative of the evangelical Christians who played a crucial role in re-electing the president.

Administration sources said Ashcroft's likely replacement will be White House counsel Alberto Gonzales.

In a five-page handwritten resignation letter to Bush–dated Election Day but released Tuesday–Ashcroft took credit for declining crime rates and preventing additional terrorist attacks during his tenure. "The objective of securing the safety of Americans from crime and terror has been achieved," he wrote.

But Ashcroft, whose gall bladder was removed in March after he was hospitalized for pancreatitis, also wrote that the "demands of justice are both rewarding and depleting" and that "the Department of Justice would be well served by new leadership and fresh inspiration."

Bush said in a statement that Ashcroft "has worked tirelessly to help make our country safer" and has "transformed the department to make combating terrorism the top priority."

The resignations were the first departures from Bush's Cabinet since his re-election, and administration officials said they came for very different reasons. Ashcroft–aware of the controversy he has provoked and, according to friends, exhausted after his illness–pre-emptively offered his letter before the White House initiated a formal discussion about his future.

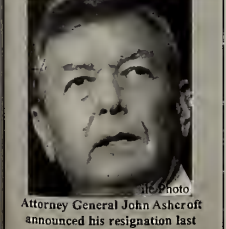
Evans, 58, often described as Bush's best friend, is eager to return to Texas to rejoin family members, who have already moved back.

A White House official said Bush considered Ashcroft's resignation at Camp David over the weekend and decided to accept it this week. Ashcroft said in his letter that it was handwritten "so its confidentiality can be maintained."

Picking Gonzales would give Bush tight control over the Justice Department. As governor of Texas, Bush put Gonzales on the state Supreme Court.

Republican sources said other contenders to replace Ashcroft include his former deputy, Larry Thompson, who would be the nation's first African American attorney general but has indicated he is not interested; and Marc Racicot, a former Montana governor who was chairman of Bush's re-election effort.

Ashcroft's deputy, James Comey, former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and New York Gov. George Pataki also are on the handicap lists of administration insiders. Most are considered more moderate than Asheroft.



file photo

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced his resignation last Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2004.

U.S. Forces Penetrate City Painstakingly

BY PATRICK J. MCDONNELL
MARK MAZZETTI
ALISSA J. RUBIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

FALLUJAH, Iraq – U.S. forces pushed about a mile into Fallujah on Tuesday, taking control of mosques and other key buildings as they searched house-to-house for weapons and rebels on the second day of a major offensive to take control of the insurgent stronghold.

Several units encountered heavy fire from snipers and squads of guerrillas, but U.S. military leaders said that overall, resistance was lighter than expected and the advance was proceeding more quickly than anticipated.

American forces controlled about one-third of the city late Tuesday night. At least 10 U.S. troops and two Iraqi soldiers have been killed in the operation so far. The United States gave on compre-
hensive tally of
civilian or insur-
gent casualties,
but Lt. Col. Pete
Newell, a batal-
lion commander
with the 1st
infantry division,
told CNN that
his unit had
killed or wound-
ed at least 85
enemy fighters.

Lt
Gen. Thomas P
Metz, the top
operational com-
mander in Iraq,
said "several
more days of
tough urban
fighting" would be needed for U.S. forces to complete their sweep through Fallujah.

According to Metz, militants were fighting in small squads of three to six and did ont appear to have a coherent plan to defend the city.

"I think the enemy is fighting hard, but not to the death, and I think that they are continuing to fall back," he said, speaking via teleconference from Iraq to reporters at the Pentagon.

Before the assault began, American officials estimated that 3,000 to 5,000 insurgents were in Fallujah. U.S. commanders were unsure Tuesday whether the lighter-than-predicted fighting was a sign that fewer are left in the city than estimated, or whether they might be retreating toward the city center to stage a coordinated defense.

Even as commanders said the Fallujah offensive was progressing according to plan, violence flared in other areas of Iraq. Two U.S. soldiers were killed in a mortar attack in the northern city of Mosul, and insurgents attacked two police stations in Baqubah, injuring eight Iraqi policemen, the military said.

The offensive to retake Fallujah, which has been controlled by insurgents since April, is part of a strategy by the U.S. military and Allawi's administration to stabilize the country and reduce violence ahead of elections for a National Assembly set for Jan. 31.

In September, Metz and other senior military officials said it was possible that violence might exclude Sunni Muslim-dominated cities such as Fallujah from voting. On Tuesday, however, Metz expressed more confidence that the Fallujah offensive would allow the city of 300,000 – as well as other towns throughout restive Al Anbar province west of Baghdad – to participate in the voting.

"I think because Fallujah has been the cancer, that when the cancer is removed it will impact other places, especially Ramadi, especially Baghdad and other parts of the (Sunni) Triangle," he said.

Yet as Metz made his prediction, an influential Muslim clerics' group called on Sunnis to boycott the vote in protest of the attack on Fallujah.

Harith Dhari, director of the Association of Muslim Scholars, said his group would spread the boycott message through 1,000 mosques with which it has affiliations. The election, he said, was being held "over the corpses of those killed in Fallujah and the blood of the wounded."

On the battlefront in northeastern Fallujah, U.S. Marines and Iraqi troops seized a mosque and a convention center after fighting through a mile of hostile urban terrain.

"It was one hell of a difficult fight," said 1st Sgt. Jose Andrade, of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, which entered Fallujah through the northeastern Askari neighborhood. "We had to fight back fire the whole way."

On several occasions, squads and platoons were pinned down by volleys of rocket-propelled grenades and rockets and had to take cover in houses or elsewhere. As Charlie Company advanced, squads of guerrillas took up positions in the many houses abandoned by their residents.

Explosions rocked the city as U.S. ground and air forces – and insurgents – fired rockets, mortars and artillery rounds. Great plumes of smoke rose up occasionally as U.S. forces destroyed houses filled with weapons.

Finally, troops reached the Al-Hadra Al-Muhammadiya mosque.

"This is the nerve center of the resistance – and we're here," said Capt. Theodore Bethea, commander of Charlie Company.

Inside, the troops found a weapons cache that included several rocket-propelled grenade launchers, AK-47 rifles, a sniper rifle, and materials for homemade bombs.

Marine officials said four guerrillas were killed in the attack on the mosque. There was some damage to the mosque, including broken glass and some destroyed walls. But its interior and distinctive single minaret were largely intact.

Meanwhile, Marines of Bravo Company, also with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, seized a convention center across the street from the mosque.

The two facilities were considered key gathering points for the resistance, U.S. officials said. Both facilities are also closely associated with Omar Hadid, an Iraqi insurgent leader said to be allied with Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian whose militant group has claimed responsibility for many bombings, shootings and beheadings of foreigners.

Metz said Zarqawi and his key aides likely had fled Fallujah before the U.S.-led forces began sealing off the city Sunday night.

As night fell Tuesday, exhausted Marines and Iraqi soldiers billeted in the mosque while outside, Abrams tanks and troops kept guard. Volleys from machine and 120-millimeter guns occasionally broke through the darkness.

Approximately 10,000 U.S. troops and at least 1,000 Iraqi soldiers are participating in the Fallujah offensive. They began to storm in from the north on Monday night following a massive U.S. bombardment of the city.

Much of the city seemed abandoned Tuesday. Streets appeared deserted, except for guerrilla fighters who darted in and out of alleys and peered through windows.

The bodies of several dead insurgents were seen on the streets. The U.S. military offered no estimate of enemy or civilian dead or wounded, although Metz said insurgents had suffered "significant" casualties while "very few" civilians were hurt or killed.

Reports of high civilian casualties was a major factor in the decision to call of a Marine invasion of Fallujah last spring after just five days.

In coming days, U.S. forces will attempt to seize several other main buildings, including Fallujah's government center, the former Iraqi National Guard headquarters, and other mosques considered central to the insurgency.

But it will clearly take a much larger effort to assert full control over Fallouja. Many of the residents have been openly supportive of the rebels and opposed to the U.S.-led intervention here.

U.S. officials say a multimillion-dollar reconstruction plan will follow the invasion in an effort to help rebuild the city. People whose houses have been destroyed will be able to make claims for compensation, officials say.

But more difficult to bridge will be the perception here that the the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the ouster of Saddam Hussein has led to a disenfranchisement of the minority Sunni population that has long dominated Iraq. January's elections will likely advance the cause of Shiite Muslims, who were oppressed by Saddam but make up a majority of Iraq's population.

On Tuesday, Allawi's government tried to demonstrate that it was looking beyond the current fighting and appointed a military governor for Fallouja, who is to be in charge until civil authority is in place.

But the announcement, made at a Marine base outside Fallujah, was greeted with jeers by assembled Fallujah residents who complained the appointee, Maj. Gen. Abdul Quder Mohammed Jassem, lacked local ties.

Other Sunnis voiced dismay at the onslaught in Fallujah. The Sunni Islamic party, the only Sonni party in Allawi's government, announced it was withdrawing.

But Hachem Hassani, the party's only Cabinet minister, said that rather than withdrawing, he planned to keep his position and form a new party because it is important for Sunnis to remain involved in the political process.

"Iraq is larger than any party," he said. "I feel it's a mistake to leave the government."

He also decried the clerics' boycott plan. "It will be a big mistake not to have the Sonnis' participation in the election," he said. "We would have problems for decades to come."

U.S. Marines take positions in a narrow street in Fallujah, Iraq.

U.S. Marines plug their ears as they wait for a tank to fire on insurgents.

-Photos by Luis Sinco of the Los Angeles Times

Arafat Deteriorating, but Still Alive, Palestinian Officials Say

By Glenn Frankel
The Washington Post

PARIS–As Yasser Arafat slipped deeper into a coma Tuesday, a delegation of senior Palestinian officials dispatched from the West Bank offered the most detailed account yet about the cause and seriousness of the Palestinian leader's illness and called a truce in a war of words between them and his wife.

Like a group of ones sent to restore tranquility in a fractious family, the four officials met with Arafat's doctors and held a tearful meeting of reconciliation with his wife, Suha. Accompanied by her, one of them visited the bedside of the unconscious leader in the intensive care unit of the French military hospital where he has been battling for his life for the past 11 days, since he was airlifted here from his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

They emerged to tell reporters that Arafat's condition was deteriorating. But "his heart and his lungs still function and he is alive," Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, said. By Shaath's account, doctors are focusing on digestive tract ailments as the root cause of the coma.

Shaath said there were no plans to disconnect the machines that were sustaining Arafat's life. "People talk as if his life can be plugged in or plugged out–this is ridiculous," he said. He added, "He will live or die depending on his body's ability to resist and on the will of God."

One of the goals of the mission, Shaath said, was "to end all of the speculation and all of the rumors" that have surrounded Arafat's illness since he became comatose last Wednesday. Still, there was another round of unconfirmed stories during the day, including a report from the Reuters news agency, citing unnamed Palestinian sources, that their leader had died in the afternoon. But the report also said that, according Palestinian sources, that the Palestinians were awaiting the arrival in Paris of a senior Muslim cleric who would decided whether or not to disconnect life support.

But Shaath and a spokesman for Percy Military Training Hospital, the cordoned-off facility where Arafat is being treated, denied he was dead. "The president is very ill," said Shaath. "His situation has deteriorated, especially last night."

Suha Arafat, who, under French law, has control over her husband's treatment and over the release of information on his condition, had drawn a curtain of silence over his status since Wednesday, triggering rumors of his imminent demise and of plots against him.

Those rumors also reflect the mass anxiety over the fate of Arafat among Palestinians who, for four decades, have viewed him as an icon of Palestinian nationhood and

> **"People talk as if his life can be plugged in or plugged out-this is ridiculous. He will live or die depending on his body's ability to resist and the will of God."**
> **-Nabil Shaath**

popular resistance against Israel.

Exasperation with his wife, coupled with concern that the leader's uncertain medical status was hobbling their attempts to organize a rational succession, led the senior Palestinians to embark on their mission to Paris. But when word of their plan arrived in Paris on Sunday night, Suha Arafat phoned the al-Jazeera television network and unleashed a tirade of accusations against the four officials, all of whom are longtime colleagues of her 75-year-old husband. They were conspiring to bury Arafat alive, she had said. At first, Suha Arafat told the French authorities she would not allow members of the delegation, which arrived in Paris late Monday night, to see her husband, French officials said. But on Tuesday morning she relented, and also agreed to allow them full access to the Palestinian leader's doctors. Besides Shaath, the delegation consisted of Ahmed Qureiaze the prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, the former prime minister, and Rawhi Fattouh, speaker of the legislative assembly.

The doctors "don't have a full understanding of why his status has deteriorated, which means that we don't really have a full diagnosis," said Shaath. "We know what it is not. It is not malignancy or cancer anywhere in his body and the doctors today ruled out completely poisoning."

Arafat first fell ill with stomach cramps, nausea and diarrhea about three weeks ago and Shaath laid out a scenario that could put at least part of the blame on the Israelis, who have confined the Palestinian leader to his Ramallah compound since March 2002.

"The doctors by and large favor the explanation that his age ... his difficult life, the last three-and-a-half years incarcerated in a very small office, which had very little oxygen and very bad sanitary situation, in siege by the Israeli army, have contributed to a variety of digestive tract ailments," said Shaath, who said Arafat's blood had failed to produce enough platelets to maintain his vital organs.

The result, said Shaath, was "a chain reaction built over time that put him into a coma."

Shaath said a tearful Suha Arafat had embraced all four members of the delegation and welcomed them at the hospital despite her bitter words two days ago. They, in turn, assured her of their love and support and promised she would always be "respected and protected by the Palestinian people," he said.

Shaath attributed her previous outburst to "psychological tensions," concluding "this is all over." Suha Arafat remained in the hospital compound and made no public statement.

Shaath said it would be "indecent to discuss somebody's burial while he's very much alive." But in Ramallah on Tuesday evening, Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat and senior Arafat aide Tayeb Abdul Rahim said the Palestinian leader would be buried at his besieged headquarters there, known as the Mukata, when he dies.

"All the arrangements will take place here in Ramallah, in the Mukata," said Erekat, who struggled to hold back tears during the news conference.

Israeli officials refused to comment on the statements. In the past, security officials have indicated they favor Arafat's small family plot in the Gaza Strip as the burial site, and Israeli political officials have so far ruled out burial in greater Jerusalem.

Golden Globes Limit 'Passion'

By Robert W. Welkos
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD – The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has announced that Mel Gibson's worldwide hit "The Passion of the Christ" will be eligible for a best foreign-language film Golden Globe nomination, not best motion picture. Director Gibson and others who worked on the film, however, will be eligible in other categories.

A spokesman for the organization said Monday that Golden Globe rules allowed only English-language feature films to compete for best picture. Although "The Passion of the Christ" is a U.S.-produced movie, the dialogue is in Aramaic with subtitles.

The association also announced that Michael Moore's controversial film on the Bush administration's war on terror, "Fahrenheit 9/11," is ineligible for a best motion picture nomination because Golden Globe rules prohibit documentaries from competing in that category. Moore has withdrawn his film from consideration by the Academy Awards for best documentary, but is willing to have Oscar voters consider the film for best picture.

The two moves by the association are setbacks for Gibson and Moore because the Golden Globes are often seen as a precursor to the Academy Awards.

This year's Golden Globe nominations will be announced on Dec. 13, with the awards ceremony to be broadcast Jan. 16 on NBC.

James Caviezel in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Judge Orders Peterson Juror Replaced

By Louis Sahagun
Los Angeles Times

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – The judge in the Scott Peterson murder trial replaced a juror for misconduct on Tuesday, then ordered the jury to restart deliberations from the beginning.

No details were given for the dismissal of the juror, a retired Pacific Gas & Electric Co. employee. Her replacement is a mother of four boys who has nine tattoos, works in a bank and frequently changes her hair color.

"You must decide all questions of fact in this case from the evidence received in this trial and not from any other resource," San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Alfred A. Delucchi told the panel. "The people and the defendant have the right to a verdict reached only after full participation."

After reading a new set of instructions to the glum-faced jurors, who were in their fifth day of sequestered deliberations, Delucchi told them: "We are going to send you back to start all over again. Keep in touch."

Peterson, 32, faces two counts of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and could face the death penalty if convicted. Prosecutors, in a case built on circumstantial evidence, contend he smothered or strangled Laci, then used a new boat to dump her body into San Francisco Bay on Christmas Eve 2002.

The juror's removal marks the second time a panel member has been dismissed. The first occurred in June during the trial.

Earlier in the day, the judge summoned lawyers to his chambers to discuss a potential problem with a juror who might have conducted some independent research. It was unknown whether it was the juror who was dismissed, and details on the reported research made available.

Legal experts suggest the shift in jury membership could tip the scale either way.

"I think there was one happy face in the courtroom – Mark Geragos' – because (Tuesday's courtroom activity) wasn't about a conviction," former prosecutor Jim Hammer said of the defense attorney.

But during jury-selection hearings earlier this year, the dismissed juror reportedly told prosecutor Rick Distaso that she was not comfortable with circumstantial evidence because "you can't place it in time."

She also told the court that she did not "see a motive" in the Peterson case even though media coverage seemed to be "fixated" on the defendant's guilt.

The dismissal marked the second time in two days that deliberations have been interrupted by a potential jury problem. On Monday morning, Delucchi urged the jury to keep an open mind in their deliberations after he received a note alerting him that some jurors were not getting along.

The same day, Delucchi denied a defense motion for a mistrial after several jurors, who had requested to see Peterson's boat, climbed inside the craft and began rocking it. Defense attorneys called that a violation of state law barring jurors from experimenting with evidence. Delucchi, however, disagreed on grounds the jurors' actions were within legal boundaries and did not favor the defense or the prosecution.

It was not known whether the dismissed juror was involved in Monday's discord, or the one that led to Tuesday's hearing.

After the judge's lecture, the jury on Monday asked for a variety of physical evidence, including an anchor, tidal charts, a plastic bag, a life-insurance policy and transcripts of Peterson's telephone calls to his girlfriend.

Student Charged with Aiding Terror Group

By John Mintz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON–A Wyoming college student has been charged with providing material support to a terrorist group after acknowledging to federal agents in Texas that he was trying to send military equipment to a Somali group that the U.S. government has designated as a terrorist organization, officials said Tuesday.

> **"Agents found that on that Web site and in e-mail communications with a man named Khalid, Walker had expressed admiration for terrorists and said he wanted to leave for Somalia to join in Jihad..."**

The student, Mark Robert Walker, 18, also told agents that he was trying to arrange travel to Somalia to fight alongside the Ittihad al Islamiya group, which the U.S. government said is allied with al-Qaida, according to a document filed in federal court in El Paso.

FBI agents began a probe of Walker on Oct. 28, after his roommate at Wyoming Technical College called authorities to say Walker had been using his computer to communicate with terrorists. Walker fled Wyoming to Mexico after his roommate confronted him, according to an affidavit filed by Mark Kaminsky, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent. Agents later found that Walker, using the name Abdullah, was the administrator of a "jihadist" website, the affidavit said.

Agents found that on that Web site and in e-mail communications with a man named Khalid, Walker had expressed admiration for terrorists and said he wanted to leave for Somalia to join in jihad, the affidavit said. Walker also expressed a desire to buy weapons, ammunition, night-vision goggles and bulletproof vests for the Somali fighters, it said.

The FBI placed Walker's name on a watch list, and last Saturday ICE agents detained him after he tried to enter the U.S. from Mexico at a border crossing near El Paso. He agreed to talk to agents, and told them of his activities, after which he was arrested, the ICE affidavit said.

Walker had become interested in Islam at a mosque in his hometown of Rochester, N.Y., officials said. "He seems like a lost guy who got obsessed with jihad," said one official familiar with the case.

Western intelligence agencies have suspected Ittihad al Islamiya of involvement in a number of terrorist plots in east Africa, including the 2002 suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya, in which 16 people were killed.

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

An open letter to all Westfield State Students:

Many of you registered to vote with MASSPIRG over the course of the last 2 months. And some of you, as I have found out, were turned away at the polls on Tuesday, but this is not your fault, my fault, or MASSPIRG's fault. Rather, it is a problem caused by many systemic reasons that I feel you should be aware of:

1) First, many students just filled out the forms incorrectly. Predictably, there are many students who couldn't really care less about voting. Obviously, when students are forced to register to vote by their parents or professors, they don't take extra care in filling out the form. Although MASSPIRG (assisted by the College Republicans and the Political Science Club) attempted to show students the proper steps to take, many scenarios still made improper registrations occur. For example, the huge voter registration rally on campus went on amidst a downpour. When 20 students are crowded under a canopy, filling out forms and then tossing them back onto a wet table before running off into the downpour, there are going to be errors that we simply can't correct. Numerous forms were filled out in pencil, without the correct identification number, without being dated, or were simply filled out completely illegibly. When this is the case and 'Joe Student' also failed to fill in his phone number, we (as well as election officials) have no way to contact and inform him that he is not registered to vote.

2) Massachusetts, as a state, was behind in processing their new voter registrations. Every form from Westfield State College was turned in on time, and postmarked at the latest by October 13, which was the deadline to register by mail in Massachusetts. I can tell you this because I watched the envelopes get postmarked. But, putting this into a larger perspective, it is easy to see why a meager 2 weeks was not enough time for elections officials to process all of Massachusetts' new registrations. MASSPIRG alone registered 9,700 new voters across the state—this adds up for your election officials, who had a similarly difficult time trying to sort through, read, and eventually process these forms before November 2.

3) Finally, a very unfortunate (and illegal) incident was occurring at some polling places in Westfield and Springfield. Many students who were newly registered showed up at their poll sites to find out that they weren't on the list, because their form had yet to be processed by the state. Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) the law requires that these people be given a provisional ballot, which will be counted if the election is close (provided that their registration eventually checks out). Most students are unaware of their right to vote on a provisional ballot, and they simply went home. Some students, however, asked to vote on a provisional ballot and were told by poll workers that provisional ballots are "a waste of paper" so that poll site was not going to use them. This was reported immediately to Secretary of State William Galvin, and the matter was finally cleared up around 3:00. Regrettably, most students had already attempted to vote this point and been turned away.

In conclusion, I know that many of you expressed anger toward MASSPIRG, and I want you to know that your concerns were heard, but the matter was entirely beyond our organization's control. Based on the large number of students who attempted to exercise their civic responsibility and their resulting anger when they were denied this right, I feel that Westfield State students are not as "apathetic" as they are often labeled. Furthermore, the chaos that surrounds our electoral process is a much larger problem that extends far beyond the "apathy" of a typical college student; it is a systemic problem which deserves your outrage. There is a reason that our government tries to make it difficult for you to vote, and if this situation affected you on November 2, I urge you not to remain complacent. Write a letter to the editor of the local Westfield papers, contact your town hall and let them know you are unhappy, and certainly contact the MASSPIRG office at (413) 572-5428 because we will be reporting all cases of voter disenfranchisement directly to the Secretary of State.

- Angela Francis
MASSPIRG Campus Organizer
- Jessica Castro
President of Pi Sigma Alpha
- Timothy MacDonald
President of the Political Science Club

To the Editors:

I have finished reading the entire Voice this week, and I must say that I am overwhelmingly impressed with the ability of you (the editors) and your staff to hold yourself in a professional and dignified manner. You have caught a lot of flack in recent weeks for the content, and use of various terminologies throughout The Voice. I was one of those people who did in fact think that the obscenities and extremely negative horoscopes were over the top.

However, I truthfully feel that the campus voice does now see that many people across campus would be more interested in reading good hard news stories, and read columns that are controversial in a sense, but not offending to certain individuals. Emily Engel, yes, I do think that your columns in the past week have been getting old of reading about who did this and who did that, which is then followed by a negative reaction by you.

However, I would like to commend you on your column this week. Although I did not fully agree with all of the points made, the fact that gave me a sense of relief was that you displayed yourself and your opinions in such a way that it is hard for someone to become offended with your words, but better yet, become displeased with your comments causing controversy with a tactful and first-rate topic concerning all of us at Westfield State College. Matt Bernat, in reading the hard news stories supplied in the recent issues, I have been somewhat displeased with the quality of the coverage. Not necessarily with the quality of the work submitted, but more so with the lack of news in the paper. One example of this is that in the past weeks there have been comments made by two republican state delegates concerning same sex marriage, education, and the state's financial status.

All of which are extremely important for all of us to be aware of. Please only take this for what it is worth. It is a suggestion that news on campus maybe needs to be covered more often. In understanding that there are numerous issues that are limiting in the ability of things to be covered including, staffing and times of events, I simply feel that The Voice could have been making a more conscious effort to ensure that these important events be covered. This week however was the best news I have read all year. Finally to all other columnists, I have been more than pleased through the year with the columns written in The Voice, I feel that all of you present your points in professional, and understandable language, while also causing people to step out of there comfort level, and out of their normal ways of life. In ending I realize that everything in life is a learning process, people will be bound to make mistakes. I applaud you in your efforts for effectively recognizing and fixing problems that you saw, which are also viewed throughout campus (including myself). Thank you for your time and please understand that I am not writing this in efforts to ridicule The Voice, or try to say the content has been insufficient based on everyone that reads it. I have my own opinions on this, and I feel that if the Voice continues to take, in my eyes, the necessary steps to improve, once again The Voice will be amazingly respected and overwhelmingly viewed as a good source for news.

- Matthew Curren
Class of 2006

W.S.C. PRESENTS: GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Westfield State College to celebrate Geography Awareness Week

Westfield State College will celebrate Geography Awareness Week starting Monday, Nov. 15, with various events, including a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Day presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

The theme of Geography Awareness Week is Cultures: The Sound of Place with a separate theme for GIS Day: Real World Applications of GIS in Education, Commerce, and Community.

The college will have a Faculty Symposium from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in Dever Auditorium and geography presentations in the student dining commons and Quehito's Café from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17-19. The symposium will explain in greater detail how GIS can be used in a classroom. The geography presentations will include music, sounds, and information from a variety of cultures as well as information on mapmaking.

"GIS is a valuable system that creates visual aids to enhance presentations in the academic and professional world," said Sean Fitzgerald, assistant professor of the geography and regional planning and coordinator of the event.

Geography Awareness Week was developed through the Geography Action Program to engage people in learning and caring about geography. The National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, are among the many sponsors of the week and its events.

The Voice

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PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

iTunes & AIM, a campus-legal alternative to Kazaa!

"The Left-Handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Columnist

Guess what? It is now time for me to take a long-deserved break from politics considering all of us have had such a huge dosage of it over the past few weeks. Next to politics, one of my main hobbies is computers, and next to computers is music. So why not combine both!? If you are computer literate at all, then many of you download and listen to music on computers on a regular basis, regardless of genre. Personally, I am far too elite for programs like Kazaa and other spyware ridden peer-to-peer programs. When I am at home I use a clean, invisible, reliable peer-to-peer program called "BitTorrent" that allows you to download entire albums of music, applications, games, and movies at astounding rates. However, this program is peer-to-peer so it is not permitted on campus, so DO NOT use it and tell the IT guys that the left-handed elephant kid said it was okay. So while on campus it seems like we are stuck when it comes to listening to music without, GASP, spending money on it. I know, I can't bring myself to spend my cash on music either.

So where is the alternative you say? Well, here you go. Since I have an iPod, thanks to the generosity of my loving girlfriend, I also have iTunes, which is a free music program that you can download online. I hate Steve Jobs, Macintosh, Apple, I-anything, but I absolutely love iTunes for the simple fact that it is the best music program on the face of the planet. iTunes is easy to use, sorts your music for you, and best of all, you can share your music with anyone on the same network. That means that after a long night at The Voice, I can go back to my room, open up iTunes, and listen to music on someone else's computer. That, my friends, is awesome! But somehow, I am still not very impressed and if you are normal, you shouldn't be either ...

You know why? Because we are Americans! We are greedy, love breaking the rules, and want to own the entire world. As of right now I have the third largest collection of songs gigabyte-wise in Scanlon Hall and I want more! I want to be number one, even though I have heard that some kids have upwards of twenty gigabytes of music on their computers. iTunes doesn't allow you to directly download others music, obviously, so instead pouting college students have started to think outside of the box. Instead of labeling their music "Bob's Music" people are beginning to put their AOL Instant Messenger names in their stead. The reason? Because downloading through AIM direct connection is still legal on campus and EXTREMELY fast. Just today I transferred the *Requiem for a Dream* soundtrack to another Scanlon resident in ten seconds flat in exchange for an older Modest Mouse album I had been eyeballing in his library. That sounds like a good trade to me, and it was completely, 100% legal. Take that, Westfield State College Technology Department!

My advice to the music lovers of the Westfield State College community would be to get your money's worth of your bogus five hundred dollar "technology fee" this school tacks on by getting at least five hundred dollars worth of music. Hey, it is only fair. So here is what you do: Go online to iTunes.com, download the program, add your music library no matter how large or small it is, make sure your iTunes folder is your screen name, and go nuts with sharing, the completely legal way.

I guess in a way this article was somewhat political, and in a strange way kept to the reason why I started writing this column. I mean it's all about sticking it to the man, i.e. the music companies, and Westfield State IT brass with their Nazi-like, anti-file sharing policies, isn't it? I guess it is also an excuse for this campus to be united by something other than baseball and lame riots. Or at least I hope so ...

Don't wanna be an American idiot

"And Justice For All"
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

"How can 59,054,087 people be so dumb?" That was the headline in the Daily Mirror, a London newspaper, the day after George W. Bush was officially re-elected. How can 51% of the nation vote Dubya in for another 4 years? It boggles the mind. But rather than packing up and heading north, there is a bright side to having another four years with the Texan. Liberals across the country can continue to complain, Jon Stewart can continue to make his smart remarks, and Michael Moore can make another blockbuster documentary. Since dissent is what makes democracy great and almost half of the voters wanted the other guy, the next four years will give everyone something to talk about.

Bush announced his "agenda for America" recently and it included more tax cuts, a reform of the current tax system, and partially privatizing Social Security. With the growing deficit, Bush has proposed even more spending while promising to cut the federal debt in half by the time he leaves office in 2009. He wants to make his former tax cuts permanent and has proposed even more, effectively placing the burden on the middle and lower class families. Bush announced that he also plans to simplify the tax system, lessening the progressive tax code that we currently have. The number one thing on Bush's list, however, is partially privatizing Social Security, which would allow young workers to take money from the program and place it into personal savings accounts. Many have debated the effectiveness of this plan with the staggering two trillion dollar price tag while Bush proclaimed that it was cheaper to change the current system than to leave it as is. "We must lead on Social Security because the system is not going to be whole for our children and our grandchildren." he said. If the new arrangement fails, however, there will be no system left. Another sore spot for the President is the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and exit polls showed many Americans believed we went to war for the wrong reasons. President Bush addressed this by promising to keep the country safe and continue fighting the war on terror.

If President Bush wants to accomplish all these goals, he's going to have to move quickly. Even though he has a Republican majority in both the House and Senate, many sitting members have been hesitant to back the President's agenda. With the mid-year elections in 2006 and a heavily divided country, incumbents are cautious about passing any radical changes during the campaign season. But Bush and his ideologist pals aren't going to back down on pushing through legislation that meets their morals and values. This administration has had a tight set of conservative rules that it plays by and its loyalty probably won't stray too far from the right-wing beliefs.

In his concession speech, Kerry called for Americans to unite to help heal America. That's going to be a difficult task to accomplish when many of the voters squirm at the thought of one more term for the President. Dr. Martin Luther King once appropriately said, "We must accept finite disappointment but we must never lose infinite hope."

Let's just hope this country doesn't go to hell...

Hate crimes are still crimes

"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice
Columnist

Let me tell you, in case you don't know, about Matthew Shepard. Matthew Shepard was a college student who was murdered in 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming. He was beaten, robbed, tied to a fence, and beaten more until he died. Well, until he lapsed into a coma from which he would die several days later.

The human body is a pretty resilient thing, really. Fragile when compared to say, a tiger or a brick outhouse, but still a pretty tough little cookie. Anyone who has had to saw through bone can attest to just how hard that stuff is. Beating someone to death isn't always the easiest thing to do. It takes a little time, and some real effort. Leaving them to die in a field, still strapped to a barbed wire fence, so that they could die in the hospital, in front of their parents, well, that requires something else.

Matthew was, by all accounts, a pretty good guy who certainly didn't have this coming to him. But Matthew was gay, and his two killers figured nothing else really mattered. But they're in jail now, and probably having a train run on them as we speak, so there's that.

Matthew's tragic story received a good deal of media attention, with a movie (*Anatomy of a Hate Crime*) being made about it. Matthew's killers deserve to spend the rest of their lives in jail, picking up the soap and getting hot, sticky, ironic prison love on a daily basis. But they deserve this because THEY KILLED SOMEONE, not because they killed someone out of hate.

Now, some critics of hate crime laws argue that all crimes require you to hate someone, but this really misses the point and borders on petty sophistry. I'm more interested in pointing out the fact that hating someone because they're black, gay, Jewish, protestant/catholic, or whatever petty division you so chose is your RIGHT in this country. If you want to belong to the Klu Klux Klan, that's your right. It's your right to hate gay people in much the same way it's your right to hate just about anything you want. You're not allowed to do anything about it, though. You're not allowed to burn a cross on someone's lawn, or hit them with a car. Because hitting people with cars is illegal, no matter the reason. Because trespassing and harassment are illegal, no matter the reason. Because we have laws to force people to behave the way they wouldn't otherwise.

If I steal a Paulie Shore movie from Blockbuster and smash it against the pavement because he sucks, is my larceny charge any more grievous than if I did it because I was bored? Of course not.

Now, I'm not saying that smashing a video tape is the same as a person's skull; I'm pointing out that, in our society, your personal beliefs do not factor into your sentencing. If those two men had killed Matthew Shepard because they were bored, mean, and looking for kicks on a Friday night, would he be any less dead? Would their crime be any less monstrous? Of course not.

Matthew Shepard's killers deserve to spend the rest of their lives behind bars, without hope of parole, because they ended a human life. They did so neither to protect themselves from harm nor by accident. They did so with malice of forethought and with heinous disregard for human life. They, and all their kind, should be dealt with in the exact same way, regardless of whether they are motivated by hate, greed, or simple sadism.

America, home of the brave

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

Well, Westfield State, here it is; the only remarks I will make on the decision of the nation to re-elect President George W. Bush. This will not be my main focus, of course, I couldn't stand thinking about the man that much. I did you all the liberty of holding back on my political opinion on the election until this week, because I knew that last week's paper would be full of opinions on Bush. Bush alone is not the reason why America has come to suck so much, umm ... hard candy (I guess this would be more appropriate choice of words considering the fact that we now have the Student Government Association breathing down our necks).

I started thinking recently about what I wrote in my last column, about human beings treating the Earth so terribly. There really is no way to change that, as I had said last week. Humans are humans and they will always be human, unfortunately. What bothers me most about the world comes from the American society. While I in no way condone the attacks on the World Trade Center or the hijacking of planes to crash into Pennsylvania (although this was not its intended course) and the Pentagon, it really is no surprise to me that such events happen.

Think about it. Here we are living in America, where we all at least have a chance at living in shelter and making something out of ourselves and yet all we can do is complain about every damned thing under the sun. Elsewhere, they are not even given the opportunity of housing and an education. Elsewhere, they live in fear that the American pigs will be dropping bombs on their neighborhood because there "might be" terrorists around. Jealousy is a very strong human emotion and it has been known to cause people to act somewhat irrationally.

This was apparently at least part of the case when Osama bin Laden ordered 9/11 to happen. We must remember that bin Laden knew things about our country that most of us do not. He knew these things because he was trained by our government. He was trained by the CIA. These are the things that the government does not want us to know because it could "incite fear" in the people. Actually, if we knew half of what our government does not tell us, we'd probably over in the Middle East working with the terrorists.

'Terrorist' itself is a funny word to me. It seems a bit misused by our authorities. I highly doubt that bin Laden wanted to make Americans terrified of living their every day lives. In fact, that couldn't have been his aim.

This is a highly intelligent man; he has to be, who else could escape the wrath of the American military. He even made it out of the bombing of Torah Bora apparently unscathed. For better or worse (obviously for most of us, worse) what bin Laden was trying to do was wake Americans up to the world around them. For me, it worked.

Before that day, I had never cared what happened in the Middle East or for that matter anything that happened outside my neighborhood. Now I understand that everything we do affects everyone in some way or another. The route we take in Iraq and wherever else this "War on Terror" leads us is a dangerous one indeed. We certainly aren't making any friends. I am sure the people of Iraq are happy that they are no longer under Hussein's rule, but to many of them, I am also sure that America is not that much better of a replacement. We kill their people indiscriminately, and incite more terror in the hearts of their people than we may ever know. For instance, do you know that the number of Iraqi civilian deaths in the War in Iraq is around 37,000? There are new reports coming out that suggest this number may be as high as 100,000. This is ridiculous. Our president talks about the "sanctity of life" and yet he exhibits in no way that he may actually believe that life is sacred. Just think about it. Here's to another four years with you, Bush.

An election reflection

"A Nickel's Worth"
By Bob McDonald
Voice Columnist

Firstly, I must apologize to my loyal readers (that's you, Tim), for my lack of columns in the past few weeks. Part of it was due to some issues in my personal life, but mostly I was just in mourning over the election.

More disappointing than the results of the election, however, was the statement of victory made by President Bush following Senator John Kerry's concession speech. In that speech, the President said, "America has spoken, and I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens. With that trust comes a duty to serve all Americans, and I will do my best to fulfill that duty every day as your president."

American had indeed spoken. Unfortunately, they gave a mixed message, as is usually the case. Fifty-one percent of the American voters gave the President a clear mandate to proceed on with his plans. However, forty-eight percent of American voters made a far different statement. Still, one percent of the voters favored neither Bush, nor his opponent.

While Bush clearly won the election, he did so by one of the smallest margins of victory in history. America had spoken, and the message was that it was not entirely sure with itself. As an ardent Democrat, I had been hoping that the mistakes made during the last four years by the administration would be more than enough to justify evicting Bush from his office. I hoped and prayed that the polls would be off, and that Kerry would come through with a 57-42 majority vote. The bad news is that Kerry did not win by that much. The good news is neither did Bush.

President Bush clearly has his work cut out for him. He has just come out of the most divisive and expensive campaign in history, and there is still no clear message sent by the American people as to what they want. All he knows is that a thin majority of people chose him over the other guy.

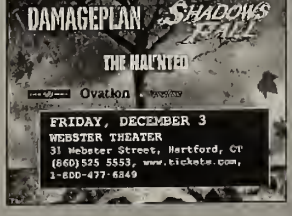
I must admit that hearing him say that America had spoken gave me cause for worry. Would the Democrats, party-laying, wounded and disheartened by a defeat so many never saw coming (or at least would never fully except as a possibility), be able to stand up to President Bush's self-proclaimed mandate that three million votes would allow him to push an even more conservative agenda on the public?

Thankfully, the President did one thing right all on his own. On Wednesday of last week, President Bush nominated White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales as attorney general to replace John Ashcroft. Ashcroft, as you know, is one of the poster-children for left wing aggression. While I was thankful to hear that he would be leaving, I was also worried as to who would replace him.

For once I must applaud the President (just don't tell anyone I did). Rather than choosing someone as far to the right as Ashcroft, Bush picked a relative moderate. This is simply an example of good politics at its best. Bush gets his place in history by appointing the first Hispanic attorney general in U.S. history, while at the same time offering a pseudo-olive branch to moderates and Democrats. In the words of Democratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York, it is "encouraging that the president has chosen someone less polarizing."

I also find this to be encouraging. However, I also hate token examples of anything. The President sits before a country that is more divided than has been in recent memory. Clearly, it is now time to heal mutual wounds. However, healing those wounds does not mean that the losers must conform to the whims of the winners. What it does mean is that both sides must be willing to compromise. The president has taken a pivotal first step to fulfilling his promise from four years ago of being a uniter and not a divider. I pray that this will not also be the last step.

REEL BIG FISH
The Webster Theatre,
Hartford, CT
November 19, 2004



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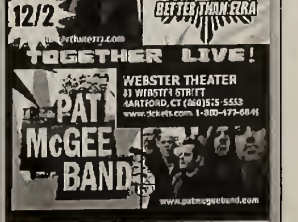

Arts & Entertainment

Voice editor predicts *Galileo* to be an astronomical hit

BY MATTHEW BERNAT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"How could the people in power give free reign to somebody who knows the truth?" asks this year's Theater Arts Program *Life of Galileo* by Bertolt Brecht. The play is about Galileo's struggles against the Catholic Church at a time when church doctrine was favored over science.

"Galileo is very sensous. He is a man of the flesh, he likes food, likes women. Science appeals to him because it is something you can touch," said Colin Kiley who plays Galileo in this year's production.

"His sensuality was ultimately his downfall. He was never tortured because he knew what it was going to feel like." said Kiley.

The show opens Wednesday November 17th and runs until the 20th. Show times are at 8 p.m. with a 2:30 p.m. matinee for the November 19th and 20th shows.

Many of the actors in *Galileo* have appeared in previous plays. Tim LeFave's first performance was in *Knuckle*. LaFave, a junior, plays Mr. Priuli and the Inquisitor. He said Mr. Priuli is, "A rather flamboyant fellow. In many ways he is Galileo's boss." The Inquisitor on the other hand is, "more composed, dark, sleazy and sadistic," said LaFave.

This year's cast and crew was relaxed before the rehearsal. They joked easily with each other a half hour before Tuesday's rehearsal.

Sophomore Todd Vickstrom plays the part of Galileo's best friend who warns Galileo to stay out of trouble. He said the play showed the "struggles for truth and battles against authorities of the time it's anti-authoritarian."

For Kiley, this will be his seventh show. Last year you could have caught him in the theater arts production of *R.U.R.*, a role he said that was very demanding because it forced him to be in his character for so long.

After college Kiley plans to, "Hit the bricks and make a career out of it (acting). Your first love is usually theater." he said.

Tickets for the play have been on sale since November 8th at the campus center service window. anyone who wants reservations should call 572-5682. Student tickets are $2 and faculty/staff tickets are $6. The general public tickets are $8.

"With all the movies and T.V. shows, theater is not people's first choice anymore. There's so much more of a difference. (Theater) more easily engages people with performers. It's one of the oldest art forms, you're watching history when you watch theater." said Kiley.

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Colin Kiley is deep in thought as Galileo. Tim LaFave approaches him, apparently hesitant to bother the astronomer.

The cast of Galileo prepares for opening night on November 17. The cast is seen here for a full rehearsal in the Ely black box theatre.

Where is WSKB and where is it headed?

BY HALEY PATON
VOICE REPORTER

Cassie Gendron, clad in her black hooded sweatshirt, her long dark hair hanging lonse down her back, is parked on a couch, in a place that many know about but few Westfield State students have ever actually seen.

"Oh cool. The Killers. We spun them last semester," she says half to herself, referring to a review in the arts and entertainment section of The Voice.

It's Tuesday night, September 28th, and tucked up in the right hand corner of the Ely Campus Center, the General Manager of Westfield State College's student-run radio station, 89.5 WSKB, is lounging in the WSKB office after that night's board meeting.

Cassie's been with the station for four years. A math major from Chicopee, this fall is her second semester as an executive board member, and her first as general manager. With her graduation coming this spring, next semester will be her last.

Currently, as GM, Gendron is in charge of "making sure everything runs smoothly." This includes keeping a master log of "every song that gets played between certain dates" and dealing with BMI, "the company that takes care of copyrights and payment from the radio station to the artists," says Gendron.

How did 89.5 WSKB get started? The person to talk to is Andy Johnson.

He now has a mustache and his afro is long gone, but his face is unmistakably the same as the one in the portrait of his younger self hanging in the WSKB office.

Andy Johnson, who is now the associate director of the Ely Campus Center, reveals that Westfield State's radio station was originally a carrier current station in Wilson. Basically a carriercurrent station is an AM station in which, instead of the signal being broadcast by an antenna, the signal is broadcast through a building's electrical system. According to the College Broadcast Resource Page on line, "The electrical system then acts as your antenna. Radios in and near the building can pick up the broadcast."

Later the station became an underground AM station called WWED, "Mighty Weed" Johnson, who was a student during the late 1970s, remembers a "banner with a cannabis plant." The station was only 10 watts, an unfathomably small number as compared to the station's current 100 watts that still does not reach very far off of campus.

"Wattage is important," said Johnson, "but it also depends on where the antenna is." noting that AAC, another local station with similar wattage has better range because of a better antenna location.

The campus station went to 100 watts in the late 1970s, the reason for this being that at the time the FCC charged their regulations and any station with less than 100 watts could get bumped off the air. In order to prevent this, the student government gave money to the station to buy more wattage. "And we've been 100 watts ever since." says Johnson.

Johnson adds that the station, which had moved from Wilson to Ely, got a new board in 1977 and in 1988. The board bought in 1988 lasted through until the current board was bought just a few years ago.

"There's been talk about it for years and years and years," says Johnson. The question is," Johnson remarks, "is the station going to remain a student-run station?" Johnson mentions that faculty in the Communications Department have always been helpful with the station when he had needed any help as an advisor.

Johnson also mentions the fact that "Movement Science is part of running the new [Woodward] center but it doesn't run the whole center."

Johnson notes that not all who are involved with the station are Communications majors.

"I wasn't Mass Comm. It's about students learning and developing their craft. I'd be concerned of it becoming a tool of Mass Comm." says Johnson.

When the idea was last brought up several years ago, it is remembered by Communication Department Prof. Mark St. Jean, as creating quite a controversy.

"I think there's been a fear amongst the station leadership that the Communication Department wants to take over the station. Years ago, a former faculty member expressed his opinion of the station as an 'electronic sandbox for

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Something to *Smile* about

BY BEN SOUSA
VOICE REPORTER

After releasing *Pet Sounds*, The Beach Boys biggest achievement at the time, The Beatles, the little known main competitor of The Beach Boys, retaliated with a masterpiece of an album entitled *Sgt. Peppers Lonely Heorts Club Band* (you might've heard of it). In a final desperate attempt to once again top The Beatles' effort, Brian Wilson, lead singer and songwriter for the Beach Boys, wrote his own masterpiece with lyricist Van Dyke Parks, *Smile*.

Only thing is, this was around the same time Wilson allegedly tapped into a keg of liquid LSD. Dealing with severe emotional problems and drug use, Wilson consequently lost his mind. With the already disintegrating Beach Boys still playing but on the verge of decay, Wilson's masterpiece was watered down into a far worse version of the album and was released, entitled *Smiley Smile*, bearing the hits "Heroes and Villains" and "Good Vibrations".

After the demise of The Beach Boys, fans were left wondering what happened the other songs written for *Smile*. Rumors had started to spread about the genius of an unreleased Beach Boys album and fans were left disappointed. Now finally, 37 years after the albums original conception, Wilson organized a full band to fill the spaces of his lost band members and finished his dream. After rehearsing and receiving a standing ovation in front of a London audience after its very first performance, Wilson headed into the studio to finally record his masterpiece.

Smile is nothing less than what it has been anticipated to be: a solid gold masterpiece. Beautiful composition, vocal harmonies, and more instruments than you can count on both hands maybe even both feet (Carrot and Celery chomping included on "Vega-tables," my personal favorite), reminds one of a symphony rivaling any modern composer.

As any great symphony, *Smile* is arranged into three movements holding different themes. The lyrics, written by fellow musician Van Dyke Parks, contain somewhat goofy subjects and abstract lines about Plymouth rock, barnyard animals, trains, the beauty of vegetables and of course, good, good, good vibrations.

Some may find this a little strange, however it does exactly what the album's name suggests it does: makes the listener smile when he/she hears the beauty and sometimes absurdity of Brian Wilson's music.

-file photo

Brian Wilson, former Beach Boy, had just released a new album "Smile". A work that was scrapped back in the 60's.

He set out with a mission in to show his critics that Rock music could be art and to secretly topple the British invasion. Of course this was 30 years ago and of course the British invasion has since expired, but it would have been nice to show those English bastards who's boss. USA! USA!

So what I'm trying to say is if you love music, listened to the Beach Boys before you saw *50 First Dates*, liked the Beach Boys after you saw *50 First Dates*, like Adam Sandler, have ears, like music that will lighten up your day, and like to indulge in catchy pop melodies from the 60's, buy this album and live eternally in the hippie, drug ridden, and somewhat insane world of Brian Wilson.

The Fashion Files

With Lisandra Billings

Hello kids, allow me to introduce myself, I'm Lisandra, resident trendwhore as well as News editor of The Voice. After a few weeks of deliberation, I've decided it's time to start writing my own column on a few of my favorite things: clothes, shopping, make-up, celebrities and the occasional gossip. Shallow? You bet I am.

My first topic of choice: shopping on a budget. As I'm sure you've all found out, being in college isn't cheap and as soon as you wander away from the comforts of mommy an daddy the words "Starving College Student" have a whole new meaning. Being a bit of a shopaholic, I've trained myself to sniff out the best deals and have built up my own personal repertoire of cheap yet trendy stores.

And so here they are, my top ten favorite stores for your reading pleasure:

10 - Aeropostal: While it's become common knowledge that the store's prominently displayed "SALE" signs never seem to come down, the store has successfully managed to fool us into believing we must purchase those cute P.J. bottoms with the pictures dancing kangaroos before the sale ends. While you can't beat the store for value, the quality of their clothes is a little more to be desired which is why I only buy a few select products from them: belts, cute underwear, button-up shirts and the occasional sweater.

9 - Payless Shoes: O Payless, how we love you so. Dying to get a pair of black, knee high boots but don't feel like donating $95 to the "Steven Madden Fund?" Payless is the place for you. Payless offers quality, fashionable shoes for incredibly reasonable prices.

8 - Charlotte Russe: I feel like this store has been stigmatized into what I have heard some call a "Hootchie Haven." I beg to differ. Yes, the store carries some slightly provocative wears, but their adorable shoes, summer tops, handbags, hats and skirts make up for it. What's even better is that you can almost most positively find anything you need for under 20 bucks.

7 - Salvation Army: Or as me and my darling friends back home lovingly call it, "Sals." It's no small secret that Sals has become a shopping haven for college students all across the country and the reason is obvious: the prices are absolutely impossible to beat. Even without the 50% discount offered to college students on Wednesdays, the prices in this second-hand store are ridiculously low. The down side? You really have to search through piles of moth ball ridden clothes to find something good, but it's worth it when you do.

6 - Lady Foot Locker: Two words: sneaker heaven. I own 16 pairs of sneakers and all have come from this fantastic store. Brand names? Yes. The trick is to go on a day when they're having their "2 for $89" sale and buy in bulk. For some people $45 for a pair of shoes might seem steep but for me comfort is key and $45 for a fabulous pair of Converse sneakers brings tears to my eyes.

5 - Faces: Located in downtown Northampton this store carries everything from clothing, to greeting cards to home furniture. The objects of affection I shop there for? Sunglasses. Hundreds of beautiful, individual, CHEAP yet high quality sunglasses. They go for less than $10 a pair and there's a different style for everyone.

4 - Forever 21: I can think of absolutely nothing wrong with this store. Looking for something? Anything? Just go there. From sweatpants to T-shirts to courds to sundresses this store carries everything you can imagine at such incredibly low prices that shopping there should be considered a crime...

3 - T.J. Maxx: Located in the heart of Westfield, T.J. Maxx carries all the designer clothes from previous seasons that department stores don't sell anymore. That Roxy sweatshirt they're selling at PacSun for $60? Hold out and pick it up in a couple of months at T.J. Maxx...I guarantee you it won't be more than $25 and it will still look just as good.

2 - H&M: I could spend hours milling around H&M digging through their mounds of slightly disorganized clothes. They carry so many things that I often wonder just how many designers they have working for them. Whatever they do, it works. H&M carries every style imaginable and, though it might take a while, it is inevitable that you'll find what you need there. (Including the fantastic black and blue sweatshirt I got for $24 there yesterday...)

1 - Target: Unbelievable, that's all I have to say. Until recently I never gave this Walmart look-a-like a second glance but I'm now proud to say I wear Target and I love it. Not only do they have amazing clothes at amazing prices, they have every single thing you could possibly look for. Make-up, DVD's, sheets, computer paper, Dorritos or magazines...all under the same roof! My Target suggestion this season: the women V-neck sweaters. They look and feel just like the ones you'd see at Abercrombie only for a quarter of the price.

Scene on the Green

photo by - Matthew Bernat

Ryan Ward treks across the green during the high winds on last Friday. The wind had knocked down a tree behind Lammers damaging five cars.

Transition is a good thing

"THIS OWL'S HOWL"
BY JOHN DESCHENES
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Red Sox winning the World Series was absolutely necessary for the welfare of the entire Red Sox Nation. There is a now a real sense of pride in being a Sox fan. We will now follow the off-season very closely. Key free-agents Pedro Martinez and Jason Varitek (among others) will certainly test the open-market. It is very possible that in just a few short months the Olde Town Team will look entirely different.

For the time being we should shift our attention on to something else. Give the Red Sox organization some room,and let them do their job. We don't need to be demanding, and we don't need to tell them what they should do. They have proven they know what has to be done. Everybody relax.

It is now football season. The defending Super Bowl champions deserve our attention. There is no denying that baseball is king in New England, but let's put it on the back burner for now. The 21 game winning streak has come to an end, but the New England Patriots are still in 1st place in the AFC East, and are tied for the best record in the NFL.

To address the streak: Simply amazing. The NFL has become so popular because of the parity in the league over the past 5 years. The salary cap allows every franchise to be competitive, thus keeping more fans interested across the country. For a team to win 21 games in a row is flat out ridiculous. Winning on the road is always difficult and injuries take a toll, but week after week the Patriots found a way to win.

There were games where Bill Belichick and staff made critical decisions, games where Tom Brady led 4th quarter comebacks, games where the defense made clutch stands, and games where Adam Vinatieri made game winning kicks (does he ever miss?). Who knows if/when we will ever see a streak like this again in the NFL. I certainly don't expect to see one anytime soon.

I'm not saying you shouldn't follow the baseball off-season, because I know I will. My point is that it is now time to rally around another championship winning organization. Let's give them the respect they deserve. Three in four years? I think it will happen, and hopefully the Pats get another shot at those cocky Steelers.

W.S.K.B.

had expressed his opinion of the station as an 'electronic sandbox for the kids to play in' and that got the Exec Board pretty fired up," says St. Jean.

Despite past debate over the department's relationship with the station, St. Jean added, "faculty member have retired and I haven't heard any complaints about programming for a couple of years, so maybe things are working okay."

The Production Manager for WSKB, Skot Pierce, has been contemplating the possibility of a closer relationship between the Communications Department and WSKB "a lot, lately."

"While not being in the Comm. Department offers us the freedom of being student run, if we were a part of the Comm. Department, we could get money, I think we could get money. And I think the Comm. Department would start to teach classes that are more geared towards a radio career, 'cause right now they only have one" says Pierce, referring to Fundamentals of Audio Production.

Communications Department Chair Liz Preston notes that there was a "big vision for the 'Comm-une at one time," (as the large center room of the Comm. Department that several offices branch off of is affectionately called), adding that there were plans for a "share of resources" among the different areas of the Comm. Department: the radio and TV stations, as well as the campus paper.

Preston is unsure about the possibility of closer ties between WSKB and the Comm. Department. Raising a similar question as Andy Johnson's, Preston asks, "How do both parties benefit?"

"In a weird way I think it's clear how the department would benefit," says Preston. "The station would become a source for practical experience for students interested in radio, much like the campus TV station, WSC TV," Preston notes. "Currently WSC TV is closely tied to the Communications department," Preston says. "In part because the TV station depends on us for technology."

However, Preston also believes that a closer relationship between the Comm. Department and the radio station could be mutually beneficial. While the department would have access to the radio station as a place for audio production students to gain what Preston calls "practical experience," the radio station would also benefit financially from such a partnership, and by having access to "faculty for advice."

"I think that would be great for everybody," Preston remarks. "I just feel like it has to made clear as with the newspaper that these are independent student organizations."

The only downside Preston notes is that, "I don't think the department wants to be a broadcaster and have all that responsibility."

Whether or not WSKB becomes part of the Communications Department in the future, the station's biggest concern remains reaching the campus, according to Gendron. In order to combat technical issues that prevent students from listening, such as a lack of radios in dorm rooms and frequent problems with the station's transmitter within the past two years, Gendron is currently looking into webcasting. However, she is doing so with some hesitation.

"I absolutely think it's a great idea, and I really want to take steps toward it because it'll reach the campus community. My only fear is the cost, because what if they don't listen? The whole 'what if' thing," says Gendron, adding, "But I feel it's a step in the right direction."

According to Gendron's and WSKB web designer Sean Whigham's research, broadcasting online will cost a thousand dollars annually. The cost is not quite as high as they first expected, but is still a hefty sum.

This is a cost that Gendron is willing to pay because the station's first concern, she notes, is, "Well, first of all, the campus needs to be able to hear us."

Pierce, his professional demeanor encased in a red and gray-black dress shirt and black cargo pants with chains, is not entirely sold on the idea of webcasting as of yet.

"For the last month at least I've been trying to convince myself that webcasting is a good idea." said Pierce, citing that their current web designer will not be with the station next year.

"This is Sean's senior year. Whether we'll have a competent web designer next year" is a concern of Pierce's.

Andy Johnson, on the other hand, appears to be in favor of webcasting. "I think that's the next idea. You need to get format out there so you know when to tune in," says Johnson, adding, "If you're gonna be out there and doin' this thing you need to learn that stuff too."

Gendron's second concern for the station is 'ditching' "the attitude that well, no one listens to us anyway."

The only thing that Gendron is not willing to do to improve the station is to start allowing DJs to play commercial music.

"I really don't like it. I really don't like that whole idea because if we did it we'd just be the same as every other station there is around here" says Gendron.

What about playing a mix of commercial and underground music on WSKB?

"A mix is okay. I mean, commercial music is still music and a commercial band deserves to be played just as much as an underground band" says Gendron.

Currently the station does have some commercial music on the racks, such as Outkast, Green Day, and The Black Eyed Peas latest albums. However, DJs are not allowed to play any tracks that have been released on commercial radio stations.

Pierce is very against any commercial music being played over the WSKB airwaves. "As a college station we have the freedom to expose music that would never be heard otherwise."

Instead, he cites the major problems of the station as being "communication between the executive board members and the DJs, and between the radio station and the campus itself."

To improve internal relations within the radio station, Pierce says, "Between the exec board and the DJs, frequent meetings I think are gonna help," then in a quieter tone, "like monthly meetings or so."

As far as relations between WSKB and the campus at Westfield State College, "I think that's gonna be a slow process and it's gonna be a matter of---just constantly---being places." Pierce says, referring to the on-campus remotes that have also become part of his role at the station.

Johnson agrees with Pierce that playing commercial music isn't necessarily the way to improve the station, noting that "it's always" struggled for listeners, even years ago when it did play commercial music as part of its selection.

"I'm not sure we've been as aggressive in getting out there as we could be," Johnson remarks, saying "It's not an easy thing to do. We could be more popular if we played pop music, but would we be doing a disservice to what our license is?"

What Johnson would like to see is sports DJs broadcasting live from the new athletic center at "men's and woman's basketball and volleyball games," as well as more on-air 'cross plugging,' or promotion of DJs' shows by other DJs.

"It's one of your fellow DJs and you want other people to listen in." says Johnson. "Ultimately," says Gendron "we would like to see a full DJ schedule. A waiting list of DJs."

Gendron pauses. "And the whole campus digging what we play."

NEW YORK BUS TRIP!!

December 4th

Pick-up in front of Scanlon Hall at 7:00a.m.

Pick-up in N.Y.C. at 8:00p.m.

Return to Westfield by 12:00a.m.

There are 92 open seats. Each ticket is $5.00 with your student ID. There's a two ticket limit per person.

Sign up at the teller window in Ely between Nov. 8th & Nov. 24th.

After the 24th ticket is sold, seats will open up to faculty and staff.

Westfield State Lands 22 On All-Conference Teams

Twenty-two Westfield State College athletes representing six fall sports teams earned all-conference honors for their outstanding efforts this past season.

Heading the list of honorees were six members of the field hockey team, which was co-champion of the Mass. State Conference with Framingham State. It was the fourth conference crown in the past six seasons for the Dwls, who rebounded from last season's 3-13 record to finish with an overall record of 11-6.

Directing the turnaround was sixth-year head coach Heather Cabral, who was selected the MASCAC Coach of the Year for the third time; she also was honored in 1999 and 2000.

Two Westfield field hockey players gained special recognition; sophomore midfielder Kate Anderson (Georgetown) was named MASCAC co-Player of the Year and sophomore forward Shanna Litterst (Falmouth) was selected conference Rookie of the Year in both the MASCAC and Little East Conference.

Anderson had six goals and nine assists, two shy of the school record. Litterst totaled a team-high 13 goals and five assists in her first year of collegiate field hockey.

Both Anderson and Litterst were first team all-conference selections along with junior midfielder Ashley Brogan (Spencer), who also was a first teamer in 2003. Selected to the second team were sophomore back Missy Alcorn (Waltham) and senior forward Laura Scott (Mansfield).

Earning all-conference field hockey honors in the 11-team Little East Conference were first-team selections Anderson and Litterst, and senior goalie Kendra Newell (Groveland), who was a second team pick.

In soccer, four Westfield State men and four women were accorded all-conference status. First team picks in men's soccer were junior midfielder Ray Cheria (Ludlow), senior midfielder Jeff Whittaker (Southwick) and sophomore forward Dave Nalewanski (Easthampton), who posted team highs of six goals and four assists. Senior back Jay Jeffrey (Bangor, ME) was a second team selection.

In women's soccer, senior goalie Natalia Araskiewicz (Framingham) and senior back Liz Rosales (Belmont) were first team all-conference. Named to the second team were senior midfielder Tara McDonough (Palmer) and sophomore forward Kate McMillan (Belchertown), who scored a team-high five goals.

In women's volleyball, senior libero Amy Svatik (Stratford, CT) and junior outside hitter Lindsay Dalene (East Hartland, CT) were first team all-conference. Svatik totaled 543 digs for an average of 6.3 per game. Dalene led the Dwls with 248 kills, 36 service aces and 71 blocks.

Freshman setter Krista Grifoni (Peabody) was a second team selection and also was named the MASCAC Rookie of the Year. Grifoni compiled 407 assists for an average of 4.6 per game.

Five members of the Westfield State men's and women's conference champion cross country teams earned all-conference honors by placing in the top seven. They are: senior Geoff Churchill (6th place, Bridgewater), freshman Andy Messer (7th, Westfield), junior Heather Wenninger (2nd, Chicopee), senior Aimee Worcester (6th, Lakeville) and freshman Kim Grant (7th, East Sandwich).

Sophomore Kate Anderson
Mass. State Conference Player of the Year

Owls Lose Turnover-Filled Football Finale To Curry

MILTON, Mass. - Tim Jones (Brookline, MA) had three interceptions, two of which he returned for first-half touchdowns, leading Curry to a 34-7 victory against Westfield State in both teams' regular-season finale on Nov. 6.

Deep in his own territory, Owls' quarterback Jon Meczywor threw the first of four picks on the afternoon at 10:29 of the opening frame. Jones ran the ball back 13 yards for an early 7-0 edge.

The second quarter opened with a 26-yard field goal by Dave Vincent (Grafton, MA) that gave Curry a 10-0 edge. On the next possession, with Westfield driving deep into Curry territory, Jones struck again. The rookie cornerback stepped in front of Meczywor's pass at the Colonels' 21 and ran 79 yards for his second score of the first half.

Trailing 17-0, the visitors had trouble generating offense, particularly on the ground. Meanwhile, Curry continued to take advantage of numerous Westfield turnovers. Jones' third interception - with just over a minute remaining in the half - resulted in a 24-yard scoring pass from Denis Hill (Pembroke, MA) to Jon Jones. Twenty two seconds later, the Colonels capitalized on an Dwls' fumble as Hill connected with Brad Dick on a 15-yard touchdown play. Curry reached the break with an insurmountable 34-0 edge.

At 10:39 of the third frame, the Owls finally scored against Curry's defense as Meczywor found Mark Puchalski (South Deerfield, MA) from 15 yards out. That accounted for the 34-7 final as the two squads played a scoreless fourth quarter.

The Colonels held Westfield to just six net rushing yards for the game. In addition to his four picks and one touchdown, Meczywor went 10-for-22 for 116 yards before giving way to Brett LeClerc (Raynham, MA). Puchalski led all Owls' receivers with five catches for 67 yards. Curry's Brandon Benoit notched his seventh 100-yard rushing game of the season, with 118 yards on 18 carries. Hill finished 15-of-24 for 140 yards.

Jones tied a school record with his three interceptions and established a new mark for interception return yards with 121. Westfield's Justin Sargent was game-high tackler with nine total hits (7 solo), including three tackles for loss, a fumble recovery and a sack.

This past Saturday, Boyd Division Champion Curry played Bogan Division Champion Fitchburg State in this year's conference championship game. Westfield finished its season at 5-4 for its four consecutive winning season.

Shanna Litterst
Rookie of the Year

Krista Grifoni
Rookie of the Year

Women's Swimming & Diving Schedule

DATE		OPPONENT	TIME
November			
Fri.	12	Regis Invitational	7:00
Sat.	13	Regis Invitational	1:00
Wed.	17	MOUNT HOLYOKE	7:00
Sat.	20	a Smith	1:00
December			
Wed.	1	at Western New England	7:00
Sat.	4	at Mt. Holyoke w/Smith	10:00
Wed.	8	EASTERN CONNECTICUT	7:00
Sat.	11	at Plymouth State	1:00
January			
Sat.	22	BRIDGEWATER STATE	1:00
Wed.	26	at St. Joseph, CT	7:00
Sat.	29	at Salem State	1:00
February			
Sat.	5	at Western Connecticut	1:00
Tue.	8	REGIS	7:00
Fri.-Sun.	18-20	New England Championships @ Bentley College	

NCAA® FIELD HOCKEY
Division III National Championship
Westfield State College
Westfield, Massachusetts
November 19-20, 2004
Contact 572-5405 for ticket information

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL LEAGUE CHAMPS!

WIFFLE BALL: Gridiron Boyz
1 PITCH SOFTBALL: Skilled-IBK — Highly Skilled-Your Mother
FLAG FOOTBALL: Skilled-Blumpkin — Highly Skilled-Congamond
3-3 BASKETBALL: Skilled-Blumpkin — Highly Skilled-Legends
VOLLEYBALL: Mens-Ballz Deep Women-Quad Life Girls
WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL WINNERS: The Quzzlers

Anyone Interested in Extreme Dodgeball (Men or Women) Please Contact the IM office.

Dodgeball will be happening in the New Woodward Center.

Open Gym Hours can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

COME VISIT THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE AND SEE WHAT TEAM YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NOW!

BANACOS ROAD RACE
10K (6.2 Miles)
Sunday Nov. 21st @ 12p.m.
Starting at the Woodward Center
$6.00 for Students
All Runners Receive A Free T-Shirt
Your Intrumural Team Gets An Extra 10 oints Towards The Banacos Cup!!

IM Department is Now Accepting Rosters For:
5-5 Basketball (M&W)
Co-ed Volleyball
Co-ed Water Polo
Soccer (M&W)
Billiards (M&W)

Anyone Interested in Intramural Lacrosse (Men or Women)

Please Contact the IM Office in Parenzo Gym (P-169) (Right Under the BBall Hoop)

This is DEFINITELY HAPPENING - we will have an IM Lacrosse League.

If you have any questions please contact: Coach Rich Fului @ Laxgoal28@comcast.net

Just a Reminder
Our New Website is:
www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Get all the Information you need on Intramurals, Sports, and Recreation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS INTERMURALS BOARD!!

President: Andrew Smith
Vice President: Matt Dissell
Secretary-Jen Lawrence

Members At Large:

Kyle Piazza, Liz Oliveira, Jason Tileston, Matty Benoit, Steve Sawyer, Kevin Sheehan, Dwight Spradley, Jacques Moret, C.C. Costello, John Meineke, Marcus Henry & Jeff Ford

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 4, established the position of student member of the Board of Higher Education (BHE). The only distinction between the student and other members of the Board of Higher Education is the abbreviated term in office. In all other repsects, the student member is a full equal member of the Board of Higher Education. The Govenor selects the student member from the recommendations of the undergraduate students submitted by the Student Advisory Committe (SAC). SAC is an advisory commitee to the BHE and is composed of the student trustees from the community colleges, state colleges and University of Massachusetts. It is the responsibility of this committee to determine the method for nominating the students member of the BHE.

The student member rotates from each segment of the public higher education system. For the 2005-2006 academic term, the student member will be a representative from the state college system. At this time, we are pleased to invite applications for the studentmember to the BHE. Applications must be recieved by December 1, 2004 and may be submitted to my attention on behalf of the student Advisory Comittee.

Selection of the next student member to the BHE is a very involved process that is compressed within a short timeframe. To halep facilitate this process on your campus, I have enclosed material regarding the selection process.

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Student Member Application
2005 - 2006 Academic Term

Applicants for the Student Member of the Board of Higher Education must submit the following information:

1. Enrollment Verification
   The Registrar must certify that you are enrolled full-time and that you meet the required standards for satisfactory academic progress at your instituition.

2. Resume
   Please include information regarding your course of study, expected graduation date, employment history, and related activities and interests.

3. Three Personal References
   References may be provided by a fellow student in a leadership role, college administrator, faculty member, or other professional who can attest to your attributes to serve in this capacity.

4. Statement of Purpose
   This brief essay should summarize your interest in serving on the Board of Higher Education and demonstrate your understanding of this leadership role.

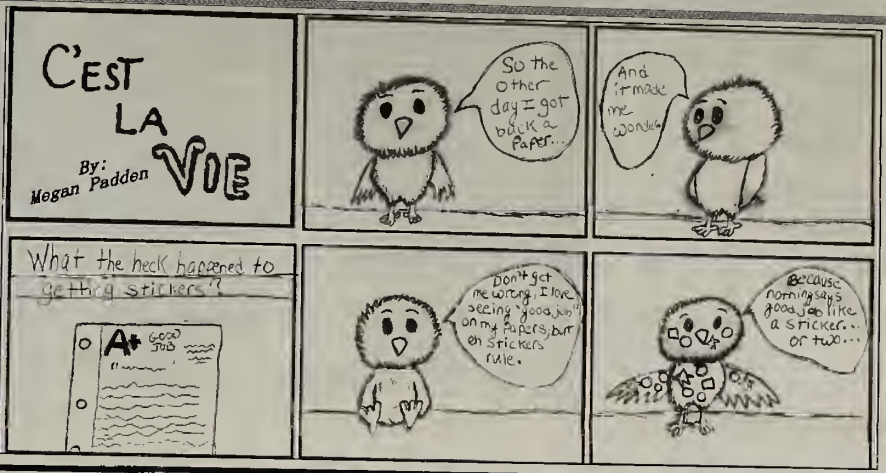
Submit Application material o:
Clantha Carrigan McCurdy
Associate Vice Chancellor
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
454 Broadway, Suite 200
Revere, MA 02151

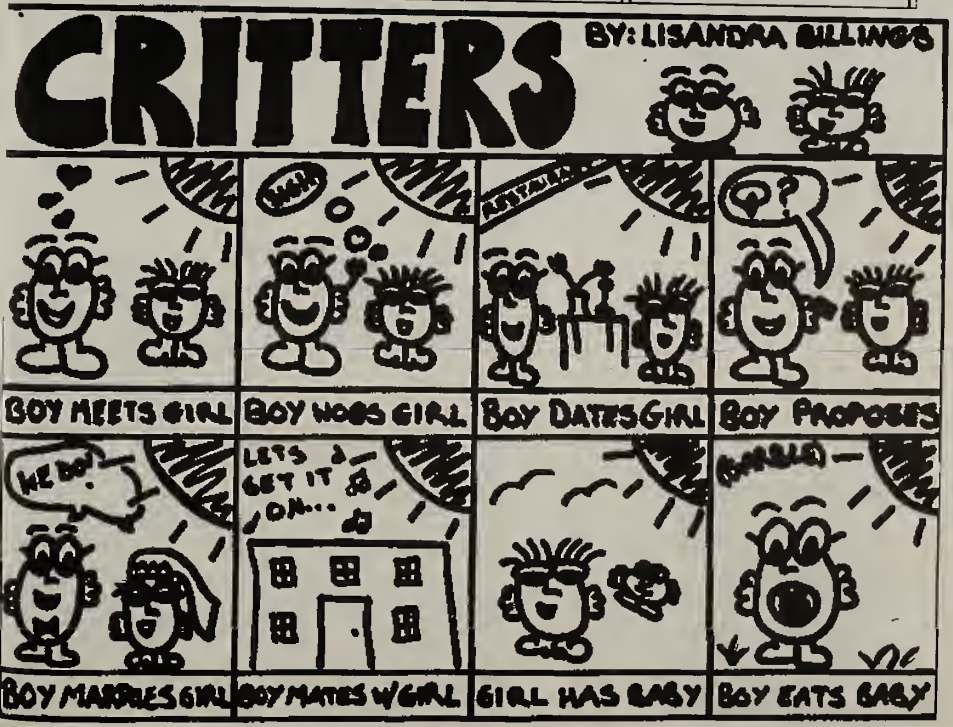
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2004

Steve Hofstetter's Observational Humor

When you're spinning on a highway, there are six thoughts that go through your head. The first one is "I can regain control of this!" The second is "Crap, I'm gonna die!" The third is "That cop is a jerk." The fourth is "This is going to make a pretty good column." The fifth is "Wow, this is taking a while." And the sixth is "Crap, I'm going to die. Stupid cop."

For More Observational Humor, see Mr. Hofstetter's page at:
www.collegehumor.com
You can also purchase his book, *Student Body Shots*
Check your local bookstore.





The Back Page – This Week at WSC

November 24	Theater Arts Program presents...	*WSC Athletics This Week*
Dorm halls close at 2 pm for Thanksgiving Happy Thanksgiving from The Voice	Bertolt Brecht's Life of Galileo November 17-20 8:00pm November 19&20 2:30pm Ely Studio Theater	Good Luck to All Our Teams In Tournaments This Week!

Mon 11/15	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm		Monday Evening Jazz - EML - 7-9pm
Tue 11/16	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm		L.A.F.E.- 7:00 TWR
Wed 11/17	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Coffeehouse - EML - 8pm Swim meet Mount Holyoke - 7pm	"Galileo" - 8pm - Ely Studio
Thurs 11/18	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	RAD Class - Juniper Park Studio - 6pm	"Galileo" - 8pm - Ely Studio
Fri 11/19	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p Men'sBasketball E. Connecticut State Tournament vs. Newbury 5:30	Class of 2005's Senior Night - Alcohol Services Available (21+ Only) - TWR - 8pm-Midnight	"Galileo" - 2:30 and 8pm - Ely Studio
Sat 11/20	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight Swim meet at Smith College - 1:00pm "Galileo" - 2:30 and 8pm - Ely Studio	Sun 11/21	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Women's Basketball Franklin & Marshall tournament, Lancaster, PA 1:30/3:00pm

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Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X **November 15, 2004** **Issue X**

SGA adopts stance on faculty negotiations.
pg. 1

Editor calls for good show Galileo review.
pg. 10

Photo by Mike Coughlin

More election reflections. Check out the opinion section.

MASSPIRG addresses voting mishap.
pg. 7

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State

Volume X | November 22, 2004 | Issue XI

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Mike Mazeika of the Student Government Executive Council addresses The Voice's Matthew Bernat about whether or not any information from the tape recording of the closed door meeting would be used by The Voice.

The Voice appears before SGA

Dining Commons improvements announced and Kung Fu Club was allocated funds

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) discussed The Voice and the Dining Commons among other things at the latest meeting.

President Matt Curren opened the meeting by saying that, due to snowy weather, the Cancer House of Hope raking trip had been cancelled indefinitely.

Curren then addressed previous issues brought up at the last SGA meeting concerning the campus newspaper, The Voice. Curren said that after holding three separate fact-finding meetings with the editors of The Voice, the members of SGA and The Voice advisors, the Executive Board decided that at this time it was not necessary to take punitive action against The Voice and that it was not their place to do so.

Curren requested that any further comments or complaints about The Voice be directed to the editors in their office in Ely C-248.

Curren then said that The Voice was requesting the taped recording of the closed door SGA meeting that took place on Nov. 9th. Curren said that they were currently consulting with their legal advisor and planned to respond to The Voice's request after reviewing the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Curren then introduced Voice Co-Editor-in-Chief Matthew Bernat. Bernat addressed the senators saying that The Voice had received content-based complaints and had immediately begun to address and correct the issues WSC students had with the newspaper.

Bernat also said that

SGA - pg. 2

Drug presence on campus

Interviews with three Westfield State students who have been affected by illegal drugs. Their stories are told in this two-part series.

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

When he walked in he looked a little out of place. His hair was shaven down to his skull, plugs in his earlobes and his tattooed arms contrasted sharply with the office setting. Computers, a few bookshelves, a small fridge and some past issues of "The Campus Voice" hung on the walls.

It took a few phone calls and some waiting but he was here.

"You can't pick a coke user out of crowd," he said. He ought to know, he did cocaine for a number of years, sometimes off-campus and sometimes in his dorm room.

Among other drugs he has tried, marijuana, 'shrooms, vicadin, percocet, Oxycontin, opium, Ecstasy (once, he said), molly (which is pure Ecstasy) and Crack cocaine. Doing crack "Was not a planned event," he said, noting that when you smoke cocaine, it affects your body in a completely different way.

"Mike" (not his real name) would only speak if The Voice promised anonymity. Though it is widely known that alcohol and marijuana are used regularly on campus there is a small population of students that use other drugs considered more dangerous by students at Westfield State College (WSC).

"There is a stigma on cocaine for a very large number of people. I graduated Suma cum laude. I don't see how it (cocaine) fucked me up," said Mike.

WSC Public Safety recently released its annual report for the year 2003. For the past three years, there has been a small rise in the number of drug related arrests. 2001 - 5, 2002 - 7 and 2003 - 11. By far the most number of violations come under alcohol, which has also risen slightly in the past three years

Cocaine - pg. 2

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Alcohol bottles line the shelf of an anonymous student on campus. Harder drugs have been on campus in the past and continue to be used by a small number of on-campus students.

WSKB in New York for underground music convention

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

Part one of a series

There are people dressed the way you might expect at a conference for underground music, young adults in blazers and jeans, t-shirts, vintage sweaters, flared vintage skirts in bright colors, dreadlocks, Converse sneakers and Pumas. But there are also people wearing button-down shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps. Older business-men and women in suits attend panels alongside girls with blond-chunked hair, maryjanes and fishnets. There is a boy in a hot-pink hooded sweatshirt, as well as a boy in a button-down shirt and khakis. There are trends but no signature look among them, but they are all music fans.

Bob Hoey wore a t-shirt and jeans with his Old Navy mechanic's jacket to CMJ.

People travel from all over the country to the annual College Music Journal conference in New York City. From as far away as Missouri and Colorado. There's even a booth as part of the expo giving away free sampler discs of

CMJ - pg. 3

Low morale in contract negotiations

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College President Vicky Carwein acknowledged that morale is low because of stalled contract negotiations between the state and the union representing faculty and librarians.

"I know morale is low. It's exceedingly difficult for all of us, management and faculty alike," said Carwein about union negotiations. "This is a real frustrating time for everybody."

"The whole system of negotiating is broken. There is no incentive to reach an agreement," said Brad Art, Union Representative and Chair of the MSCA Bargaining Team statewide.

Art said the financial package cannot get worked out until the language of the proposed contract is resolved. "Some of the language is really offensive," said Art.

Although the state Board of Higher Education, BHE, struck language last week that required faculty to "respect" students, the Union does not feel this change moved talks forward.

Gerald Tetrault, Westfield State

Union - pg. 3

Columnist Bob McDonald gives you something to chew on.
pg. 6

Tickled pink by the color pink? Not this week's 'Fashion Files'
pg. 8

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SGA

he did not feel like the Nov. 9th closed door meeting was necessary because, "If the complaints aren't heard by The Voice, how are we supposed to remedy them."

Vice President of Student Life, Colin Drury, spoke next about the Habitat For Humanity trip planned for this upcoming spring break in March.

Drury addressed student concerns that the trip required a $100 deposit and said that he was attempting to locate a department on campus that would be willing to sponsor the trip. Drury also said that he planned on organizing two car washes in the spring to raise money for the trip and that the money rose would benefit those individuals who took place in the car wash.

Stephanie DeCosta, a representative from the Food Service Committee, announced that Sodexo would now be providing packets of "real" maple syrup as well as Fluff, due to student requests.

DeCosta also addressed the lack of cups available in the Dining Commons and said that while the Sodexo workers were now using left over cups from years before, they are unable to do much about the situation since students have been stealing the cups.

DeCosta then announced the new self-serve grill that will go into effect on Dec. 1st. The new grill will provide students with quesadillas as well as the regular hamburger and french fries that have always been offered at The Grill. Sodexo believes this will speed up the food service process so that students will receive their food quicker. Vice President of Programming, Julie Swartwout, spoke next about the upcoming 'Say What Karaoke' competition. Swartout announced that the preliminaries would be held on Monday, Nov. 29th at 8 p.m. in the Ely Student Lounge and that, so far, 27 students had signed up. She said the finals will be held the following Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 8 p.m. in Dever Auditorium.

Kristine Miele then gave the Finance Committee report, focusing on a proposal to allot $2,390 to the Kung Fu Club. Miele said that the club had originally requested $3,880 but the committee decided that since the club was no longer operating off campus they were to receive $500 a semester, as is it written in the SGA bylaws.

Miele said that the club was under new management and was unaware that they would not receive the same amount of money they did in previous years because they were no longer traveling off campus for their lessons and were not using their coach's studio. Miele also said that the coach was unaware that he would receive less money coming directly to the college for lessons and it was unfair to penalize him and the club for the misunderstanding.

After much deliberation, the sena-

Cocaine

while the number of drug related incidents has dropped from 72 in 2001 to 41 in 2003. The report does not give specifics for the type of drug.

Another Westfield State student who requested to remain anonymous wasn't using cocaine personally but said, "Last semester I realized coke was getting really popular among the freshmen. At least twenty people I was talking with were blowing coke. Some of them are still here, some of them aren't."

"Cocaine just got bigger when they cracked down on pot."

- Anonymous

No stranger to the campus drug culture "Sara" said, "One of my friends was on campus with a dealer who got arrested. He was dealing everything; weed, coke, heroin, you name it, he had it, he was like a Wal-Mart."

A third student who spoke on the record, Ben Pegg, is a Resident Assistant in Scanlon hall who lost a friend to drug use.

"He's my best friend from high school," said Pegg. In the summer of 2003 his friend went to Maine to be with his dad who owns a tattoo shop. Pegg said his friend would smoke 5-10 joints a day. "They were like cigarettes to him." He then started to take ecstasy. "I remember the phone calls stopped when he started taking E," said Pegg.

In this two part series we'll be looking at these three different students and the stories they have to tell.

"I knew shit coming to this school," said Mike.

Right now Mike has been clean for "months and months" though he still uses tobacco and alcohol.

In 2001 Mike was a sophomore, at that time he said public safety had a crackdown on drug use on campus. "People were getting busted left and right. People switched over to a drug with no scent." Mike said public safety solved the problem the wrong way. "Any drug you can put up your nose got big," Mike said.

There was an influx of oxycontin, vicaden and perkasets said Mike. "They were the highest selling pills on campus."

"Cocaine just got bigger when they cracked down on pot," said Mike.

The year 2001 saw the highest number of drug related judicial action. Also, that year the president of the Student Government Association, Shane Eldridge, and the Student Trustee Jonathan Harris, had disciplinary actions taken against them after a residential search of his on-campus apartment yielded paraphernalia prohibited by the student handbook. Jonathan Harris who roomed with Eldridge was the Student Trustee at the time and also suffered sanctions. "It was the biggest bust on campus weight wise," said Mike, "There was an abundance of coke, hookahs and alcohol."

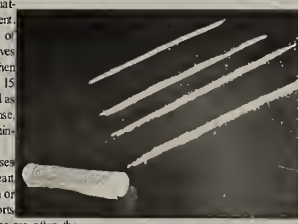
The article that appeared in the October 22th-28th issue of "The Campus Voice" did not specifically state what had been found or what action had been taken, but Eldridge and Harris remained on campus.

"A normal person, walking down the street who were to get busted with that much shit would do time, first offense or not," said Mike.

College students aren't the only ones using cocaine. Nationally there is a 7.7% lifetime use of cocaine by 12 graders, 5.1% for 10th graders and 3.6% for 8th graders. The annual use is at 4.8% for 12th graders 3.3% for 10 and 2.2 for 8 graders according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse's (NIDA) website.

The NIDA website also had information on the physical effects of cocaine. It is a strong stimulant to your nervous system. "Doing cocaine is like drinking 100 cups of coffee in five seconds," said Mike.

According to NIDA cocaine affects dopamine levels in the brain. Dopamine is a chemical associated with pleasure and movement. Cocaine creates a buildup of dopamine, which in turn gives the user a euphoric feeling. When snorted, the high may last for 15 to 30 minutes. When smoked as crack, the high is more intense, but only lasts for five to ten minutes.



-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Someone who uses cocaine can experience a heart attack regardless of how often or little the drug is used, reports NIDA. Cocaine related deaths are often the result of cardiac arrest followed by respiratory arrest.

There are other ill effects, said Mike, who stopped using because continued use will, "destroy the enamel on teeth, burn through your septum, sinus cavity, nose is weakened. "Turning your head too fast will break your nose," said Mike who then pulled back his lips to reveal small holes on his gums from using.

Mike said it's no secret that weed and alcohol are the biggest drugs on campus "It was easier than smoking pot, there is no scent, easy to get in, not stopped once," said Mike.

After Thanksgiving break look for part two of this series where we finish up with Mike's story and just begin with Sara and Ben Pegg's stories.

Closed doors

"If a nation expects to be both ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be," Thomas Jefferson.

From the Editor's Desk

It's nice to see the Student Government doing things that benefit the campus. I mean that. In past years SGA has been accused of being nothing more than another public relations arm of the college or bunch of brown-nosers. This year this is simply not true. In the meetings I've attended it is clear that all members of the Executive Council take their job seriously and truly want to benefit the students.

Recently members of SGA have questioned a state representative about gay marriage in Massachusetts and seriously debated the allocation of your money to clubs on campus among other things. One boundary they may have overstepped was an issue concerning this paper.

The short version is, Senator's of SGA had complaints about the papers content, an investigation was pursued by the Executive Council, Emily and I attended a "fact finding" meeting, an illegal closed door meeting was held to air complaints about us, and they met with our advisors, who gave them a thorough chewing out.

I would have liked a more informal investigation. We are reasonable and open to criticism would have been very receptive to any complaints.

As a strong believes in the first Amendment I must frown upon S GA's decision to keep the school newspaper out of a meeting where complaints about the newspaper were heard. Not to say we have every right in the world to offend people. With this great freedom we also have a responsibility to the students to keep ourselves in check.

I hope that Student Government keeps up the diligence of keeping an eye on things as it has done this year. As a newspaper we have the power to report on SGA and have requested a tape of the closed door proceedings. SGA has responded to our request and will provide us with the tape. We will be keeping the contents confidential. All members of SGA were under the impression their words would not get out and we won't betray that.

I'm going to put the whole situation behind and chalk it up as a learning experience. Hopefully The Voice and SGA will keep up the diligence.

Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Corrections:

- In the November 15th issue of The Voice, the "Scene on the Green" photo was incorrectly attributed to Matthew Bernat. Amy Cirrone had taken the picture.
- In the same issue, guitarist Matt Page's last name was misspelled.

Union

College Union chapter president said, "It's not a positive step. It's a neutral step. It was language put on the table just to be taken off later."

Carwein said she cannot comment on the language in the proposed contract. "It would not be right to discuss. I can't."

The Massachusetts State College Association has been in union negotiations for over two years during which faculty have not received any compensatory pay. The Union's contract is renewed monthly.

The President was on the Council of President's, COP, Bargaining Committee one of the three standing committees of the COP. "This Committee reviews COP/BHE/MSCA contract proposals and makes recommendations to the full COP. The Bargaining Committee participants are not member of the COP/BHE Bargaining Team, according to Frederick Clark in a document describing all committee positions.

The Bargaining Committee has never met without all members of the COP being present, unless missing a meeting or out of town, according to Carwein. The Bargaining Committee does not have legal authority to change the proposed language of the contract.

Carwein said she is no longer a member of the Bargaining Committee as changes have occurred at the COP in past weeks. Carwein does not know what committee she will sit on next.

The President has been accused of misleading and causing confusion within the union by not explaining her role of the COP. "I have no idea what the confusion was. I was asked if I was on the bargaining team. No president sits on the bargaining team," said Carwein.

Art said the confusion caused by the president, "Tells me she is worried about the position they are taking."

Carwein said she thinks the most important matter of the contract is the financial package. Carwein cited the result of a resent study done by the BHE showing a 20% inequity of faculty and librarians salaries compared to peer institutions.

"That is something we really need to focus on," said Carwein. Carwein said the salaries of state college union member are terrible.

Carwein said she is not sure what the next step is to securing a financial package that is acceptable to the union.

"Certainly the hope is better than 1%," said Carwein. The BHE is waiting to hear from the governor's office about a new financial package, according to Carwein.

Under the proposed contract union member would receive 1% each year for three years and no retro-active pay for the years without an increase in salary.

Under Massachusetts State law no contract of government unions can exceed three years.

The governor recently gave 4.7% raise to non-union government employees and a 7% raise to his top administrators. "He does believe in raises, just not to unions," said Art.

The union is willing to keep the language in the contract that member currently work under. This step would be taken in order to achieve a "fair economic package," said Art.

The union is asking members to no longer participate in voluntary activities requested by the administration. This includes committees that review academic affairs.

Catch part two of this series in the next edition of The Voice.

Voice of the Week

Bob McDonald

Role at WSC: He is a student member of the board of trustees. He is also a Voice columnist and was a prior member of the Campus Activities Board, WSKB Radio, and worked a month on the TV station.

Year at WSC: Senior. He is a political science major.

Favorite thing about WSC: The sense of community and the small size.

Favorite movie: *Jaws*

Favorite TV show: *The Daily Show*

Favorite quote: "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win the world, is enough good men to do nothing."
– Edmund Burke

Advice for underclassmen: "Get involved, college is full of opportunities and this is the only time when you can do as much as you can."

Compiled by Bridget Gleason

CMJ

current Dutch music.

What made Bob Hoey, a Red-Sox cap-wearing native of Massachusetts and student at Westfield State College, want to come to CMJ?

"I was asked and I figured I'd never been to New York City before, so I figured it'd be a good experience."

Hoey is in his sophomore year studying both criminal justice and English. He is also the music director at 89.5 WSKB, Westfield State College's student-run radio station.

Since 1980, the College Music Journal magazine has hosted The College Music Journal Marathon, in an effort to expose interested students to music and media industry professionals as well as to underground artists. Panel discussions concerning the music industry, and film-showings, are held during the day; live band performances are held at various clubs and bars throughout the city at night.

The highlight of the week for Hoey came very early. On Wednesday, October 13, 2004, the first night of the College Music Journal Conference 2004 in New York City, a sneak preview of the film Team America: World Police was shown at the Loews Lincoln Square IMAX Theater.

"It was at Loew's Theater, which gave it that impressive feel, a formal kind of feel," says Hoey, adding, "I'm a country bumpkin. That kinda stuff is cool to me."

This might not seem that interesting, except for the fact that directors Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators of the well-known controversial television series South Park, made an appearance after the film for a question-and-answer session.

> **"Got to see Matt Stone and Trey Parker. It was a special showing. It just felt cool."**
>
> **Bob Hoey**

Trey Parker said after the film, "I just wanted to set puppets on fire."

"It was hysterical," says Hoey, a self-described "huge South Park fan."

"Got to see Matt Stone and Trey Parker. It was a special showing. It just felt cool; it was a cool thing."

The contrast of the showing's setting with the film's tone made a big impression on Hoey.

photo by- Mike Coughlin

Frank Santos, R-rated Hypnotist, sprays water on a group of students under his spell. They thought the water was something else, something that could be considered X-rated.

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Voices Overheard

What Thanksgiving tradition could you live without?

Tyler Ebbighausen
Class of 2006
Communications

"The Thanksgiving-themed pinatas at Walmart."

Melissa La Perriere
& Andrea Brooks
Class of 2005
Social Work

"The turkey."

Bill French
Class of 2006
Communications

"Family."

Maryann Kinney
Class of 2005
Criminal Justice
Ross Collins
Class of 2005
Communications

"That although we are of age, we are still not allowed to drink with our families."

Voices Overheard is compiled by: Amy Cirrone. Amy Cirrone is a raven-haired beauty who enjoys long walks on the beach.

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Rapper Is Named in Stabbing

BY WENDY THERMOS
GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA MONICA, Calif. – Santa Monica police named a young rap entertainer Tuesday as the suspect in a stabbing during a melee at the Vibe music awards.

David Darnell Brown, 23, was sought in the attack Monday night on Jimmy James Johnson, 26, of Los Angeles, who remained in stable condition Tuesday, police said.

Brown is better known to rap fans as Young Buck, a member of the G Unit, a rap collective that has been among the hottest names in pop music. In August, he stepped from the G Unit ranks to release his own album.

Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega said Brown's last known address was in Nashville, Tenn., and that the performer had been arrested several times there for minor offenses.

Police said chaos erupted at the hip-hop ceremony in a hangar at Santa Monica Airport after Johnson approached rap pioneer Dr. Dre at a front table, asked for an autograph and then punched him in the face.

A tape being made for broadcast on UPN showed that as security personnel tried to move the attacker away, several people nearby started throwing chairs, and a shoving match began rippling through the audience of about 1,000.

-File Photo
Rapper David Darnell Brown, also known as 'Young Buck,' was named a suspect in the stabbing of Jimmy James Johnson last Tuesday, November 16.

According to police, one of three men seen holding knives in the video was Brown, who then lunged at Johnson's upper body.

As police officers summoned reinforcements, the stabbing suspect slipped away. The second annual award show was halted while officers from Santa Monica and neighboring cities swarmed the building and used Mace to quell the crowd. Officers said order returned quickly and the award ceremony finished up.

Fabrega said detectives were trying to identify the two others brandishing knives. He asked anyone with information on the suspects to call police at (310) 458-8451.

Survey Finds Young Voters Are More Engaged

BY PAOLA SINGER
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON – A youth vote survey released Tuesday shows that young people are not only more engaged in politics today than in the past three decades, but also knowledgeable about current affairs, selective of their news sources and likely to continue and increase their political activism.

The Emerging Electorate Survey, commissioned by the nonpartisan youth vote organization Declare Yourself, looked at the preferences and attitudes of young voters and nonvoters in the aftermath of the election.

"It shatters many of the myths of disengaged, cynical, and uninformed youths," said Declare Yourself founder and television writer-producer Norman Lear of the study, conducted by private research firms Global Strategy Group and Luntz Research Companies.

Based on 1,200 interviews with both voters and nonvoters ages 18 to 29, the study found that 75 percent of those who voted in the 2004 el ection plan to be more engaged in politics in the future. "They have been turned on to politics and they are unlikely to be turned off," said pollster Frank Luntz.

Although much of the pre-election debate focused on the Iraq war, Luntz said young people were more interested in issues like the economy. He added that if candidates had emphasized jobs and the economy, young voters might have turned out in even higher numbers. Half of those who did not vote said the economy was the most important issue in this election, while 39 percent of youth voters chose the economy as a top concern, behind moral values with 40 percent.

Luntz said Democrat John F. Kerry, who had a 7 percent advantage over President Bush among voters under 30, would have fared better if more than the 21 million youths who voted had showed up at the polls. A majority of nonvoters said they failed to vote because "they were too busy, they didn't like the candidates, or they were out of town," said polister Jefrey Pollock of Global Strategy Group. Yet 46 percent of nonvoters say they intend to vote in the next election.

"Over the next decade there's real trouble for Republicans if (young people) are going to continue their voting patterns," said Pollock, adding that 62 percent of first-time voters supported Kerry.

Another key finding of the study is that young people turn primarily to cable and network news for information, and that they are increasingly more likely to use the Internet, with newspapers lagging behind. Twenty-two percent named the Internet as an important source of information, while 15 percent named newspapers.

In television, they trusted news delivered by NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and Comedy Central's Jon Stewart, who came before anchors Peter Jennings of ABC and Dan Rather of CBS. "Jon Stewart is a god to young voters; whether that is a good thing or a bad thing I cannot say," said Luntz.

Bush Nominates Rice For Secretary of State

BY MAURA REYNOLDS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON – President Bush on Tuesday nominated his most trusted foreign policy adviser, Condoleezza Rice, to be the next secretary of State, a move that signaled a desire to elevate the importance of diplomacy in his second term while raising questions about whether his inner circle would include fewer dissenting voices.

In a distinctly warm and personal speech in the White House, Bush praised Rice for "her sound and steady judgment" during the four years she served as his national security adviser. He said her deputy, Stephen J. Hadley, would be her successor.

"The secretary of State is America's face to the world," Bush said. "And in Dr. Rice, the world will see the strength, the grace and the decency of our country."

Rice, 50, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister from Birmingham, Ala., grew up to become a scholar of the Soviet military and senior adviser on the Soviet Union to the first President Bush. She served as provost of Stanford University before signing on as George W. Bush's foreign policy adviser during his 2000 presidential campaign. She has been by his side since.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to work for you these past four years, in times of crisis, decision and opportunity for our nation," Rice told the president during a brief announcement at the White House. "I look forward, with the consent of the Senate, to pursuing your hopeful and ambitious agenda as secretary of State."

If confirmed by the Senate, Rice would step into the job being vacated by Colin L. Powell, whose popularity rivaled that of the president throughout his first term. Powell was the first black to serve as secretary of State; Rice would be the first black woman to do so.

The Senate is expected to confirm her nomination when it convenes a new session in January. Powell will continue to serve as secretary in the interim.

During Bush's first term, Powell was seen as the moderate counterweight to the hard-liners in Bush's inner circle, primarily Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Rice largely stayed out of the fray, styling herself less as a referee between the rival departments and more as a private confidante to the president.

As national security adviser she did not head a public agency and answered to only one person – the president – who clearly has given her job performance high marks.

Outside of the Oval Office, however, Rice's record as national security adviser was generally seen as mixed. Although she earned the president's trust, critics said she did not have a strong enough hand when it came to another part of her job: coordinating policy between the various agencies and departments who together make foreign policy. Critics inside and outside the administration said she was a weak coordinator who failed to rein in the Defense Department, particularly when it took the lead in planning for postwar Iraq, considered one of the administration's central failures.

Rice was also criticized by the independent commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks for failing to alert the president to the dangers of terrorism in the months before the hijackings, and by other critics for overstating the intelligence suggesting that Iraq possessed nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

In the months before the war against Iraq, Rice acknowledged that the intelligence was incomplete but argued, in a line that has since become famous, that "we don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said there would "probably not" be any problems with Rice's confirmation but said her role before the war in Iraq "does not bode well for America's image abroad if she is going to be secretary of State."

On the other hand, proximity to the president is the coin of the realm in Washington, and few are wealthier in that regard than Rice. She spends several hours a day with Bush, as well as many weekends at Camp David, Md., or at the Bush ranch in Crawford, Texas. Bush and Rice share an abiding interest in fitness and professional sports.

In private, Rice was said to speak bluntly to the president, but in public, there was no sign of disagreement. In fact, Rice was perhaps the most articulate spokeswoman for the president's policies.

As Bush's first term progressed and Powell grew more estranged from the president's inner circle, foreign governments increasingly cultivated a relationship directly with Rice and the Pentagon officials considered closer to her thinking, and to the president's.

In that light, foreign governments greeted Rice's promotion to the State Department as beneficial to what Bush has said would be a renewed effort in his second term to mend relations with allies who disapproved of his decision to go to war in Iraq.

"Certainly, the State Department will recover a lot of influence at the White House," said a senior European diplomat. "Even if she is a bit away from the daily life of the president, she will have the trust of the president."

But others saw danger in the closeness between Bush and Rice. With Powell's departure, critics feared that Rice would not be independent enough to clash with the president's other advisers or represent dissenting views during policy debates.

"We deserve an independent-thinking and capable secretary of State who will make our nation safer and restore America's credibility, alliances and leadership in the world," said Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., a member of the House International Relations Committee. "Unfortunately, over the past four years, Dr. Rice's accomplishments have been minimal and her mistakes costly."

In the Senate, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said that although administration critics were inclined to support Rice's confirmation, "she's so close and so much an arm of the president that he's not going to get some independent thinking."

At his daily briefing for reporters, White House press secretary Scott McClellan rejected suggestions that Powell's resignation meant that Bush would no longer be presented with a diversity of opinions.

"That's a very uninformed view of how this White House operates and how this president makes decisions," McClellan said.

Studios Sue More Than 200 in Piracy Fight

BY JON HEALEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- Hollywood studios sued more than 200 alleged online movie pirates Tuesday, seeking damages of up to $150,000 for each film offered or downloaded on file-sharing networks.

The Motion Picture Association of America disclosed few details about the suits, the first such actions by the industry. The suits were brought against "John Does" across the United States. Some of the defendants were accused of sharing only one film.

"There is no kind of a safe harbor for illegal conduct," said John G. Malcolm, the MPAA's director of worldwide anti-piracy efforts.

Sources familiar with the situation said the lawsuits targeted people who offered bootlegged movies that had yet to be released on DVD. They also said each of the seven major Hollywood studios – Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., Sony Corp.'s Sony Pictures, Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros., News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox, Viacom Corp.'s Paramount Pictures, Walt Disney Co.'s Walt Disney Pictures and NBC Universal's Universal Studios – and independent Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. had brought claims. The defendants were initially identified only by their Internet addresses, but the studios plan to ask Internet service providers soon to reveal the names associated with those addresses.

Dean C. Garfield, director of legal affairs for the MPAA's anti-piracy unit, said Internet providers began alerting customers about piracy claims Tuesday. He added that the MPAA had already started fielding calls from some of the people facing suits.

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

It has recently been brought to my attention through word-of-mouth that many students are upset regarding the SGA's stance of neutrality. Personally, upset is putting it mildly.

In the article from last week's Voice, it stated that "Student Government would not advocate on behalf of the faculty or staff on their union contracts."

Excuse me. WHAT?!?

Is it not the purpose of the SGA to provide and promote a partnership in governance among all segments of the college community? Does that not entail faculty and staff? How does a neutrality stance promote a partnership between faculty and students? It doesn't. Isn't the SGA supposed to represent the student body to ensure the welfare of Westfield State College as an institution? In this case, SGA, you're doing a horrible job.

Our professors give us THEIR time and share with us THEIR knowledge. They are the thread at which we will all weave our own quilt. Without them, all we are is a lone needle without thread. Professors need student support when it comes to their union contract or lack thereof. They don't have many options when it comes to dealing with their union contracts. Professors aren't allowed to strike because they will be fired. If they were to strike, they'd be playing right into hands of the big head honchos.

I'm sorry, but SGA, you're a bunch of cowards. Out of 51 people (10 weren't present for the vote), only 12 opposed SGA's resolution for neutrality. This is a problem. In your resolution it states, "We, as members of the Student Government Association, have strived to place students at the top of our agenda." SGA, you have not placed students at the top of your agenda when it comes to this issue. Students are also going to be affected by the faculty and staff's union contract problem. We're not going to be able overload into classes or have our professors in their offices as much as we have. In short, every single member of SGA and the rest of the student body are going to be screwed.

As a student body we need to do something to support our faculty and staff because this affects each and every one of us. How can any of us sit back and do nothing? Whether it be a student strike day or something else, we owe it to our professors to do something to help them out.

SGA, your neutrality stance is a failure not only to our faculty and staff but also to your fellow students. The last time I checked, SGA is supposed to represent the student body and take action especially on issues that WILL affect this whole campus.

- Chloe Jonnson

To the Editors:

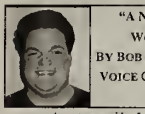
We would like to voice our concern about the news article written about the Student Government Association's decision to declare a neutral stance relating to the current faculty contract disputes. Within the first paragraph of the story, it claims that we as an association "will not advocate on behalf of the faculty or staff on their union contracts" whereas the point of the resolution itself was set forth so that SGA would stand neutral, neither siding with the unions or against them.

Within our resolution, we have made sure to include a section that states "this stance of neutrality shall not be construed as a failure to support but rather as a reinforcement of the separation between the interests of the students and those of the faculty, staff, and administrators." Simply put, the fact that we have chosen to stay out of the argument is not evidence that we are against the goals of the union. We simply wish to remain within the student realm of campus leadership, which demands too much of our time to allow for advocacy of outside groups. The reason that we wrote this into the resolution was so the rest of the college community would see that as an organization, we feel as if it is in the best interest of students that we stay out of the dispute between the unions and the Board of Higher Education.

We understand and believe that the faculty deserves to be adequately compensated, but we do not feel as student leaders that we should have to put aside the interests of the students, whom we were elected to represent, in order to further the goals of the faculty, who have a union for the purpose of advocating on their behalf.

- Michael Begley
Vice President Finance
- Matthew Curren
President
- Robert McDonald
Student Trustee

D.C. food for thought



"A NICKEL'S WORTH"
BY BOB MCDONALD
VOICE COLUMNIST

As a tour guide, I often dread the section of my tour that requires me to show prospective students the Dining Commons. I should not fear this, as the facility itself is beautiful and well designed. I should also take comfort in knowing that the first employee new students will meet is more than likely to be Mary Murphy, whose sweet demeanor just about makes up for the occasional cold pancake.

What I do dread is the comments that inevitably come from those students who are dining as the tour group walks through. Frequently I must endure less than flattering comments about the school in general, but the Dining Commons' food specifically.

I pride myself in having never willingly misled a tour group. The Dining Commons' portion of the tour is no exception. I routinely tell people that the food is mostly good, with a reasonably small portion of it being less than optimal. However, my moment of honestly all too often provokes the random patron to make some comment about how "all the food here sucks." On at least one occasion, a person gagged when I made the statement.

Yes, some of the food is bad. Some of it is God-awful. But I can't really justify a lot of complaining based on the amount of positive change I have seen in the Dining Commons this year. I can applaud many decisions made by the management, which seem to indicate a willingness to put student's eating habits before their own profits. I can specifically point out the long-overdue increased operations of the Specialty bar and the decision to change deserts between lunch and dinner as two changes that I think are simply outstanding.

The Student Government Association's Food Committee has even stated that the Dining Commons' management will soon be replacing the toasters, which currently require about three toastings to adequately prepare an English muffin.

However, there is still more work to be done. The good news is that the management is now taking proactive steps. It's good to see a group like Sodexho surveying students, especially considering that they know they will get about a hundred responses that consist only of students scribbling down "your food sucks."

It was with that thought in mind that I sat down last Monday and filled out a survey card. I filled it out honestly and made one clear complaint, which I will share with you now. I am one of those people that never ventures home on the weekend. I have no specific reason for this, aside from not enjoying the traffic in downtown Westfield on Friday and Sunday evenings and from the knowledge that my hometown is more boring than Ely on a long weekend.

I usually have few problems with Westfield on the weekends. As someone who rarely sees his room from Monday until Thursday, I often enjoy the quiet weekends here at Westfield to rest, relax, and reflect after hectic weeks. The only complaint I have ever had during the weekends relates to the food. Here, I speak not of what is offered, but rather what is not. It is a bit discouraging to head to the D.C. with the knowledge that if I don't like the one or two things that they are offering as hot meals I am on my own.

My request is simple: Why can't more options be made available on the weekend? Since we are now allowed to serve ourselves at the pizza bar, would that station not be a reasonable place to open for weekend use? Pasta seems similarly easy to prepare and would be a welcome escape from the usual chicken finger/chicken patty/fried chicken fare at the entrée bar. Limiting the weekend fare to the entrée, a sealed-down salad bar, a cereal bar, and a meat bar that looks unsanitary just makes the school look cheap. If the reasoning for cutting corners is because of true financial necessity, there must be some other way to scrimp. However, it is never okay for a school, or any part of it, to cut corners at the expense of the students.

Take this as food for thought: if I'm here on the weekends, I expect the Dining Commons will be too.

The Voice

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PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Parenting 101

"MARTY KNOWS ... MAYBE"
BY KRISTINA MARTINELLI
VOICE COLUMNIST

I received the following as a forward the other day and thought I would share it with everyone. I think the message is very clear. The author is unkoown.

"When we were kids we had a drug problem.

I was drug to church on Sunday morning.

I was drug to church for wedding and funerals.

I was drug to family reunions no matter the weather.

I was drug to the bus stop to go to school every weekday.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults and teachers.

I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those drugs are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think.

They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, the world might be a better place.

Signed,
An Old Druggie"

I'm not sure that all kids today don't have a "drug" problem, as this author suggests, but I think that more and more children are being allowed to do what they please. I think that the world today is getting pretty soft. You can't walk into a restaurant or supermarket these days without seeing some toddler acting up. Forget walking into Wal-Mart or some other place that sells toys. The kids want everything, and parents seem to be giving it to them.

Why do parents these days allow their children to act like this? Why do childreo get what they want? Why do they feel that they have to give in? From an observer's stand point, the lack of parenting is getting way out of hand.

When I was growing up, there was nothing wrong with sending me to my room, giving me a spanking (for lack of a better term), or banning me from playing with my toys no matter if I cried my little eyes out. My mother didn't care; she was going to discipline me if I misbehaved, like ALL parents should. A certain amount of discipline is not abuse. I'm not saying that you have to spank your kids to get them to behave, but do something.

My fiancé doesn't hit his kids at all, yet he has two of the most well behaved boys that I have ever met. His philosophy: Handle their misbehavior right away and don't make empty threats. As far as handling their misbehavior right away, I think that speaks for itself. It's the "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" saying. An example of an empty threat would be, "I'm going to leave you here if you don't start behaving." How many people have heard that one? I'm sure consciously or subconsciously most people do it. Why have your kids believe that they can get away with whatever they want because they know that you don't mean what you say? Kids ARE that smart.

Something else that parents seem to let their children get away with is walking out of the door either looking like a "hoochie mama" or wearing clothes that are seven sizes too big. This isn't the "self-expression" that you should be encouraging. There is nothing wrong with telling your 13-year old daughter that looking like Britney Spears is wrong. The only thing you're doing is guaranteeing that all the little boys will give her attention, or that she gets frost bite in the winter. And as far as boys go, it's not a bad thing to act like a gentleman instead of a gangster.

Now, I'm not a parent, but these are the things I notice. All I'm trying to say is things are easier for you as a parent and for everyone else you come in contact with if you have "good" kids. Whether or not you agree with me is up to you. I understand that not everyone agrees with everyone else 100% of the time, and trust me ...I'm okay with that.

All men are created equal

BY DAN WARD
VOICE COLUMNIST

It's hard to believe, but civil rights are still being denied to Americans. Today only one state in the Union, Massachusetts, provides marriage rights to same-sex couples. On election day voters in Oklahoma, Georgia, North Dakota, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Utah, Mississippi, and Arkansas backed constitutional amendments limiting marriage to a union between a man and a woman. Oregon backed a similar amendment and Ohio backed an amendment against civil unions for gay couples. George W. Bush is still trying to ensure this denial of civil rights by amending discrimination into the U.S. Constitution, a document that has secured human rights for over two hundred years. We cannot live in a truly free society if we choose to suppress the freedoms of a minority within that society.

It seems to me that other than bigotry and homophobia, the reason for such resistance to same-sex marriage arises from the word itself: "marriage." Many see this issue as one of religion; as a threat to the "sanctity of marriage." The truth of the matter is that by asking for same-sex marriage we are not asking for the right to marry in all churches but the right to be recognized by the state. This is where confusion over the term "marriage" arises. In actuality there are two types of marriage: religiously affiliated marriage and civil marriage. Civil marriage is simply the government's recognition of an interdependent relationship. Same-sex marriage has absolutely nothing to do with religion.

So why marriage? Why not civil unions or domestic partnerships? Civil unions and domestic partnerships are not enough, they do not provide the full legal benefits provided by marriage. Same-sex marriage would provide committed, loving couples rights and protections like hospital visitation rights and insurance benefits. Marriage clarifies questions about wills, child custody, and child support. There are currently more than one million children raised by same-sex couples in America. That's one million families without social security survivor benefits, healthcare, disability and military benefits, and family leave. Civil unions fall short of providing the benefits of marriage; like segregated schools they are separate and unequal. Same-sex marriage is essential in asserting America's long-standing emphasis on equality and freedom.

By denying homosexuals equal treatment under the law, the government is promoting anti-gay sentiment. We cannot accept homophobia. Over 30% of reported teen suicides each year are committed by gay and lesbian youth. Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual and 55% of gay men have had a substance abuse problem at some time in their lives. Around 28% of gay and lesbian youth drop out of high school because of discomfort due to verbal and physical abuse and gay students hear homophobic slurs as often as 26 times a day. Gays and lesbians are 7 times more likely to be crime victims than heterosexuals. We have deemed homosexuals and bisexuals as second class citizens. Our government must exemplify diversity and acceptance to help put an end to the adversity faced by gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans. Same-sex marriage amplifies freedom and acceptance, anything else is simply un-American.

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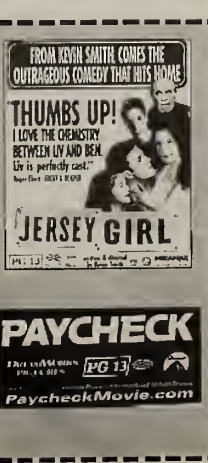


Arts & Entertainment

The holiday spirit lives in *Polar Express*

By Dan Cooper
Voice Reporter

The latest film by Academy-Award winning director Robert Zemeckis, *The Polar Express*, has the emotion and spirit to become a holiday classic for years to come. This film marks Zemeckis' third outing with the always dependable Tom Hanks, following *Forrest Gump* and *Cast Away*.

The Polar Express is based on the acclaimed children's book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg that tells the story of a boy, known only as Hero Boy who no longer believes in Santa Claus until, on one Christmas Eve, a magical train takes him on the ride of a lifetime to the North Pole. Anyone who's read the book knows what happens from there, and the movie perfectly captures that spirit and mood. Hanks, as a fan of the book, brought the ideato Zemeckis to turn it into a film. Zemeckis and his co-screenwriter, William Broyles, Jr, expanded the story to fit into a 90-minute runtime that actually helps better develop the story for the cinematic audience.

Zemeckis expands the plot by adding elements of an adventure story involving a runaway ticket, the Polar Express going out of control, and Hero Boy getting lost in the North Pole with some of his new found friends.

Visually, this movie is like few you've ever seen before, as Zemeckis opted to use a technique called performance capture to create the film. This is the same kind of technique that brought Gollum to life in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The actor wears a special suit equipped with sensors everywhere, including the face, and acts against a blue screen as their movements are captured in a computer. They are then animated over to complete the look. This type of film technique allowed Tom Hanks to have a field day with the film.

Hanks performs in no less than five different roles, often appearing onscreen alongside some of his other characters. Hanks performs as the unnamed boy at the center of the story, the boy's father, the conductor of the Polar Express, a mysterious hobo riding along on the train, and as Santa himself. Hanks also provides the voices of all his characters with the exception of the boy, who is voiced by Daryl Sabara of *Spy Kids* fame. Apart from Hanks, the film also stars Nona Gaye (*Matrix Revolutions*) as Hero Girl, Eddie Deezen as a Know-It-All, and Hanks' former TV costar from *Bosom Buddies* Peter Scolari as a Lonely Boy. The other actors are all very good in their roles, but this film truly belongs to Hanks.

Zemeckis throws several musical numbers into the film, including a memorable song about hot chocolate and an unforgettable number sung by Hero Girl and Lonely Boy called "When Christmas Comes to Town." The film works, because Zemeckis understands what made the book work. The film is full of emotional, sentimental, and tear-jerking moments that are not quickly forgotten. The ending is one that will remain etched in one's memory for days. Zemeckis creates a movie that may turn sour moods into feel good ones and will infuse all with the spirit of the season.

It is a rare gift to find a director who can craft a film that tackles with a person's emotions so powerfully. Robert Zemeckis is that

-File Photo
Tom Hanks as the conductor in the film *Polar Express*. During the film Hanks also portrayed(in cartoon form) an unnamed boy, the boys father, a hobo and Santa Claus.

Pink: Hazardous when taken in large doses

The Fashion Files

With Lisandra Billings

I've noticed a new, horrifying trend on campus: The color pink. Don't get me wrong, I personally adore pink and own numerous pink items. I'm actually all for the color ... just not when you choose to wear it ALL OVER YOUR BODY!

During the past week I have seen at least six girls that chose to wear outfits made entirely out of pink! I mean, pink pants, pink shoes, pink sweatshirt, pink jacket, pink backpack ... all topped off with a pink cell phone. The result is truly blinding.

After years of being stigmatized into several negative categories, including the "Virgin Pink," "Hooker Pink," and ever so popular "Barbie Pink," pink is finally becoming an acceptable color to wear, even on men, but for the love of God, please do not abuse this power. You truly are what you wear and there is no better way to proclaim your inner ditz than to wrap yourself in an array of pink.

"You truly are what you wear and there is no better way to proclaim your inner ditz than to wrap yourself in an array of pink."

The problem isn't always just a matter of wearing too much of the color, but of mixing too many different shades of pink at the same time. Think back to the third grade when your mom showed you that red and orange aren't worn together ... Now please apply that to your pinks. Rose does not go with Neon Pink. Seashell Pink does not match Fushia. When you pick out your clothes open your eyes and use a little common sense.

Now, I'm not saying to stuff all of your pink clothes into the bowels of your closets, pink is hot right now and needs to shine ... just in it's own way. So here are some tips for you pink lovers:

- Pink accessories are fantastic right now - handbags, jewelry, watches, scarves and sunglasses, pink is the perfect accent to any bland outfit. Pair a pink purse with a brown jacket for a nice sophisticated look and use the same purse with black to add a bit of edge to your outfit.

- Pink pants are tricky. I myself dove into the wonderful world of pink pants last week when I purchased a pair of pink slacks with the intention of pairing them with a nice brown halter and wearing them to a club. While the outfit looked acceptable, there was just something strange about wearing pink pants, and personally, I will probably never do it again. I have seen other girls pull it off though, so if you can do it, feel free. Just please do not wear the pants with a pink shirt, sweater or anything pink up top.

- Pink shirts are fantastic. The color looks amazing with anything from blue jeans to black or brown dress slacks or cords. You can wear almost any color sweater over a pink shirt (JUST AS LONG AS THE SWEATER ISN'T PINK!) and one pink shirt paired with a pink accessory is just the perfect amount of the bright shade without going overboard.

The great thing about pink is that it looks great on anyone. Brunettes, blondes and red heads alike, anyone can wear pink ... SO PLEASE DO! Just be warned, too much of a good thing is bad and unless your Elle Woods, a wardrobe made entirely of pink isn't a pretty sight.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin
This young woman enjoys the company of her two favorite pen is' Wednesday night at the R-rated hypnotist.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin
Two young men, at least one of which who seems mystified look on as a young woman's breasts "grow" under the influence of a hypnotist.

A Thanksgiving story

By Steve Brown
Special to The Voice

(Editors note. This is a reprint from the November 24, 2003 Issue of "The Voice".)

The following is a short story about the people who find themselves involved with Thanksgiving football in New England and why it is so special to them.

You are there as an observer, but still find yourself as part of the action. Beneath your feet the ground is chilled enough to warrant a second pair of socks, but you are warmed to the core thanks to the spirit of those surrounding you. You are absorbed in your mind's dichotomy of what lays before your eyes on the field and the conversation that befalls your ears.

During a break in the action, you notice a comfortable chubby white haired man make his way on to the field. Forty years removed from the game he enters the spotlight armed with the tools of his trade and begins to perform the necessary surgery to his beaten turf. He relishes this moment, just like his wife relishes her annual Thanksgiving Eve tailoring, during which she transforms his usually tired clothes into something more refined.

As he exits stage left he manages to catch the eye of the head coach who offers him both a wink and a smile. Instantaneously, the coach regains his cool, stoic edge and continues his measured pacing along the sideline. Suspended deep in pragmatist thought and completely oblivious to the reunions taking form outside the chalk lines, he controls the game like his mentor; the greatest coach this town has ever seen.

Next to the coach are his warriors, his boys. The ones he has cultivated since middle school for this game. Those fortunate enough to cross that line today will become part of something bigger than themselves and their sport. Wearing their hearts on the sleeves of their long johns, they run like the men they will become, and smile like the boys they once were.

As your eyes drift towards the crowd, you pause momentarily at the cheerleaders. Each seemingly comfortable with the stories told by mirrors. However, they appear to be out of their environment, for there is little need for distraction or ignition on this day. Unable to play on the emotions of the crowd, they direct their smiles to the cameras owned by the women they will become.

The mothers sit amongst their cliques in seats they have spent the last decade and a half ascending to. At times, they are fully enveloped in the pulse of the game, other times they cast thoughts about yarns. However, this is their sons' final game, leaving the door open for swimming in sentimental waters, but not simply because of those sons; because it's these mothers' last game as well.

One of the moms drifts her attention towards the fence running along the sideline where her husband is standing with his brother and father. He is twice the man he was a quarter century before when sadly, the greatest day in his life unfolded.

The husband stands seeing the game in both real time and black and white. For him all games are a contrast between the reality playing itself out on the field and the highlight reel replaying in his memories. But he is starting to let go and as his son takes the field for the last time, he turns his attention to the crowd and meets his wife's eyes with a smile she hasn't seen from him in years.

Taking all this in as you make your way to the snack stand, passing the men from the VFW seated in their cushioned chairs, women selling raffle tickets to support the boosters, and a boisterous contingent of seniors.

The scratching yet still soothing voice being broadcasted over the PA system interrupts your train of thought. The voice belongs to the man who most of the fans over twenty-five regard to have been their favorite teacher. The one who thought they were more then a number and who was able to look beyond their teenage façade and see their true spirit. He told the local paper last week this will be his final year. He is planning on living out his days with his brother down in Naples. But you know in your heart he could never leave this town and you'll here his voice for years to come.

-file photo

In line you hear the buzz of raconteurs vividly setting scenes and dropping punch lines. You come to a realization that what these fans want is a chance to touch some of the past, which this day allows for.

Melancholy and mustarding up your pretzel, you take notice of a young boy, maybe seven. He is finding it a struggle to control the hot chocolate in his Styrofoam cup while wearing the mittens his parents have supplied him. His distant face looks as if he found out Santa will not be coming next month, but the look changes when an overthrown ball lands a few yards in front of him. He contorts his small bundled-up frame between the legs of his parents and looks out at the coach's boys. And as the blood rushes through the vessels in his brightening cheeks, you know his time will come. And your smile returns.

You leave with the precession as the clock prepares itself for hibernation. All of them are better and happier people than the ones who started the day, even if the home team lost. They will all be back next year even if their roles are different. They will come back because the game offers them something nothing else does.

And as they make their way back towards their respective homes, they do so driving somewhat slower and listening to something somewhat softer, because on the final Thursday in November, it doesn't matter who wins or loses; it only matters with whom you share that victory or defeat.

The Deftones and Dredg make for a great tour

By David Pageau
Associate Editor

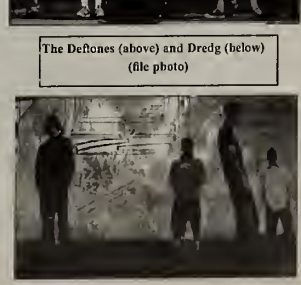
On Saturday, October 30th, I attended an absolutely phenomenal concert put on by Dredg and The Deftones at The Webster Theatre in Hartford, Connecticut. The shows started a bit late, but the performances that both of these bands put on more than made up for it. Dredg was the opening band. I had seen Dredg for the first time a year or so earlier at The Palladium in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was very surprised at how much raw talent and creativity this band brought. The band itself can be described as a healthy mix of The Deftones, Incubus and Cursive. They give off a very artsy feeling, but are by no means too artsy for their own good or overly elite about it. Overall, the band is very different in a positive way. The guitarist plays two separate amps through two speaker cabinets, giving the audience a warm, full stereo sound. The vocalist who sings in his beautiful, operatic voice also plays a number of odd instruments throughout the set. Dredg is a band that is not easily ignored, and I could tell that this crowd was absolutely loving them, and with good reason. During the middle of their set, The Deftones made a surprise appearance and made it a point to give hugs and handshakes all around because this was Dredg's last show with The Deftones, while the crowd went absolutely nuts at the sight of the band they were there for. After Dredg finished, the entire crowd was in a buzz. Many in the audience who had just heard Dredg for the first time were in awe, while much of the audience was simply anticipating The Deftones.

I personally did not know that The Deftones were on tour in October, and as a longtime dedicated fan, I was very disappointed in myself. This "mini-tour," as it was called, was simply to get some more tour time off their 2003 self-titled release. Along with their mini-tour, The Deftones are currently recording another album which is expected to come out in spring of 2005. This is huge news to Deftones fans, considering many believed that their 2003 release would unfortunately be their last. However, this mini-tour exemplified how much creative talent and raw energy this band still has.

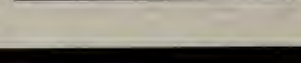
Watching The Deftones walk out on stage was almost a religious moment for me. I have seen them three times before but never have I seen them in the form that they were in this night. Overall the show was very lighthearted and comical. Vocalist Chino Moreno and drummer Abe Cunningham exchanged words throughout the entire show threatening to kick each other out of the band and beat each other up. However, this comical attitude that took place did not take away from the bands ability put on an absolutely awesome show. The crowd was very vocal and energetic and bassist Chi Cheng made it a point to pass out water and once in a while spray his unused bottles into the crowd.

The band interacted with the crowd all night. At one point, Chino Moreno had paused the song "7 Words," and forgot where he was. He then asked a member of the audience who screamed out "We were at the fuck part" which struck the band and the crowd as being funny.

This show was absolutely amazing, and everyone left with a smile on their face. Both bands put on a great show, and displayed to their audience exactly what it is that makes them creative, and different.



The Deftones (above) and Dredg (below) (file photo)



The puck stops here

"This Owl's Howl"
By John Deschenes
Sports Columnist

Please allow me to contradict myself. I know it is football season, but it should be hockey season too. The National Hockey League is currently in the middle of a devastating lockout. NHL owners want to implement a salary cap to provide parity. Based on the National Football League's success with a salary cap, can you blame them? Owners also want a Major League Baseball-like market correction to take place. This would drive down player salaries allowing owners to lower ticket prices, etc. In theory this would attract more fans to games. The players don't want any part of either as it would surely weaken their union. Their philosophy is to make as much as they can for as long as they can. We live in a country with a capitalist economy, so I can't blame the players either. Basically I conclude that nobody is to blame. Or is it that both sides are to blame?

Either way you look at it, there is a problem. I am no Alan Greenspan and I am certainly not going to propose a new collective bargaining agreement for the NHL. The disagreement about what the new CBA should look like is indeed the NHL's #1 problem, but even when an agreement is reached, the NHL has a long, long way to go.

I am a diehard hockey fan and I have no reason to hide that fact. Hockey is easily my favorite sport, so it pains me to see the NHL being portrayed as the laughingstock of professional sports. Even before the lockout, the NHL was struggling with national media attention, television ratings, and marketing. Hockey is never talked about on sports talk radio and is clearly behind football and baseball in fan support. The question is why? How can a sport built on speed and hard hitting become so meaningless in this country? How can this great sport be surpassed by a joke of a sport like NASCAR?

I don't want to write a recap of the history of hockey, but I do need to go back in time a little bit. Bobby Orr led the Boston Bruins to the Stanley Cup in 1970 and 1972. From what I understand, hockey was king in Boston during these years. In the mid 1980's, Wayne Gretzky was leading the high-flying Edmonton Oilers to Stanley Cup championships. The explosive Pittsburgh Penguins of the early 1990's were led by Mario Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr. Hockey has had its moments on the United States sports stage, but in recent years hockey has become more and more isolated. The hardcore hockey fans are still there, but the casual fans are not. I think I know why.....

With 30 teams, not every NHL team is stacked with a ton of all stars. There are obviously guys in the league who wouldn't be good enough to play if there were fewer teams. Coaches are paid to win, no matter how they do it. The combination of players who shouldn't be in the league and coaches who have to win at all costs is not a good one. What you end up with is a lot of coaches playing not to lose, or not playing to win. They don't trust their lesser players to play an up and down game. These coaches preach defense, defense and more defense. This leads to boring hockey and fewer fans.

Hockey is a game that is much better seen in person than on television. If you've been to a hockey game you know what I am talking about, and if you haven't just ask someone who has. Hockey can be a good product on television, but the NHL needs to work on it. With prices being so high, not everybody can afford to go to hockey games. You figure they would just watch on television. The hardcore fan will, but the casual fan will watch more entertaining programming. The casual fan also doesn't recognize the NHL's superstars. Sure the casual fan has heard of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux, but do they know who Vincent Lecavalier is? Andrew Raycroft? Patrick Marleau? Dany Heatley? There is a reason for this: poor marketing. How can you expect a casual fan to follow your sport if they don't know who they should be following? A major overhaul in the marketing ploys of the NHL is needed. Again, I am not a marketing genius, so I don't know what exactly needs to be done. There has to be people working for the NHL who can figure SOMETHING out, right? The biggest problem, however, revolves around the rules and regulations of the game. Being a hockey fan, not just an NHL fan, I have some views as to how the NHL game could be made more appealing to casual fans:

• Remove the red line; this would make 2-line passes legal and would keep the game flowing as there would be fewer whistles.

• Tag-up offside; this would allow an attacking player to dump the puck into the other teams zone while another attacking player is in the zone (again fewer whistles)

• Reduce the size of goalie equipment; there is no need for goaltenders to look like offensive linemen

• Enforce the rules; call a penalty any time there is one, no matter what the situation is

The following are long-shot rule changes:

• Make intentional icing/offside a penalty (puts a lot of pressure on referees)

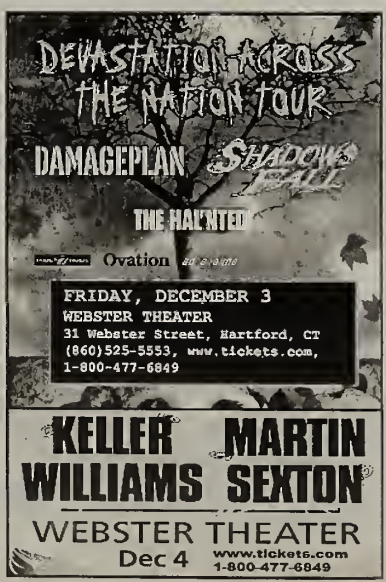
• Ban the neutral zone trap; come up with a set definition and have referees enforce the definition (to keep it simple: the neutral zone trap is a boring defensive scheme implemented by coaches I described earlier)

• Allow goalies to be hit if they leave the crease to play the puck, especially behind the net (yes that means you Martin Brodeur) / or don't allow goalies to play the puck at all outside the crease

I'm sure there are more possibilities, and if you have any I'd love to hear them. Step one of the process calls for the owners and players to reach an agreement. Step two calls for the NHL to win over casual fans. To do this the NHL needs to improve their marketing and they need to seriously look at their rules and regulations. If only one of my suggestions is used, the NHL will become a better league and will attract more television viewers. In Boston people have a tendency to be "pro" crazy. What I mean by this is that they only recognize professional sports. It's a real shame. Without the NHL, hockey fans need to seek alternatives. College hockey is a terrific alternative. I know there are a ton of hockey loving people on this campus. I suggest going to UMASS and taking in a game. Many of you visit people you know at UMASS, why not take a trip to the Mullins Center? If you live in the Boston area, check out a Boston College/Boston University game. You won't be disappointed. There is still some pro hockey going on in the minor leagues too. Go check out a Springfield Falcon game or a Hartford Wolfpack game. You have plenty of options ...

The lockout won't last forever, but that is just the beginning. The NHL has some serious work ahead of them and it will take a long time to finish, but it can be done. Hopefully the NHL gets it right because I can only take so much bouncy ball.

Visit the Webster Theatre Online at www.websterthe-atre.com



DEEP THOUGHTS BY JACK HANDY

"If they ever come up with a Swashbuckling School, I think one of the courses should be "Laughing," then "Jumping Off Something."

"When you're riding in a time machine way far into the future, don't stick your elbow out the window, or it'll turn into a fossil."

"It takes a big man to cry, but it takes a bigger man to laugh at that man."

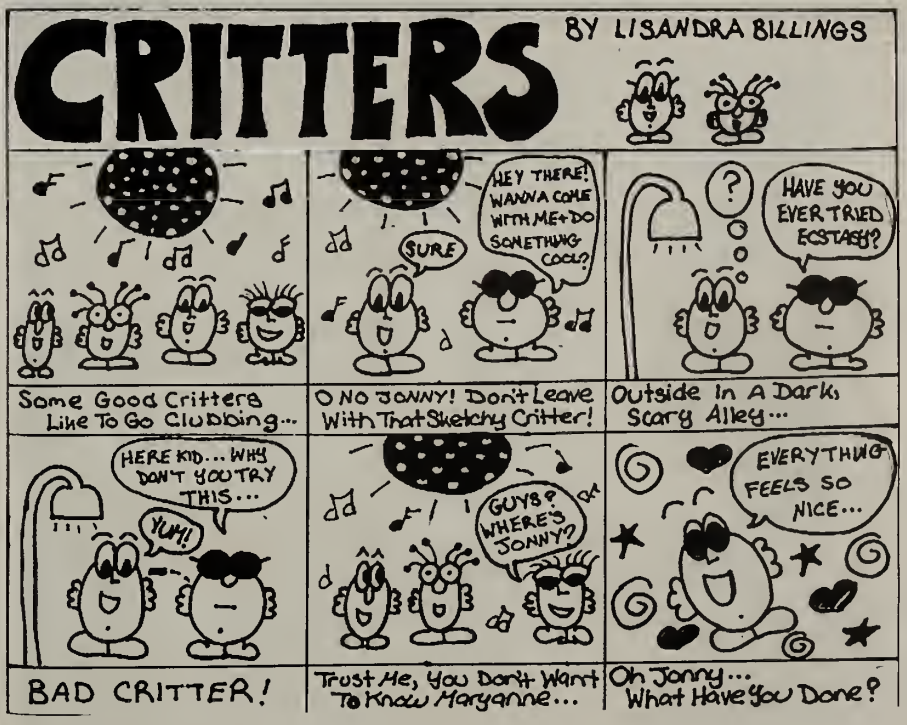
"One thing kids like is to be tricked. For instance, I was going to take my little nephew to Disneyland, but instead I drove him to an old burned-out warehouse. "Oh, no," I said. "Disneyland burned down." He cried and cried, but I think that deep down, he thought it was a pretty good joke. I started to drive over to the real Disneyland, but it was getting pretty late."

"Fear can sometimes be a useful emotion. For instance, let's say you're an astronaught on the moon and you fear that your partner has been turned into Dracula. The next time he goes out for the moon pieces, wham!, you just slam the door behind him and blast off. He might call you on the radio and say he's not Dracula, but you just say, ' 'Think again, bat man'"

"Most people don't realize that large pieces of coral, which have been painted brown and attached to the skull by common wood screws, can make a child look like a deer."

"Anytime I see something screech across a room and latch onto someones neck, and the guy screams and tries to get it off, I have to laugh, because what is that thing."

For more Deep Thoughts visit: http://www-personal.umd.umich.edu/~nhughes/htmldocs/deepthoughts.html



The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Happy Thanksgiving from The Voice

WSC Athletics This Week

Good Luck to All Our Teams In Tournaments This Week!

Mon 11/22	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20 p.m. & 6:30-9:45 p.m.		
Tue 11/23	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & 6:30-9:45 p.m.	Men's Basketball at Elms College - 7:00 p.m.	Women's Basketball at Trinity -6:00 p.m. Jazz Night - DA - 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Wed 11/24	**Dorm halls close at 2 p.m. for Thanksgiving**		
Thurs 11/25	**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**		
Fri 11/26	**No class - Thanksgiving break** Rec Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.		
Sat 11/27	Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30 p.m. - Midnight	Sun 11/28	Rec Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X **November 22, 2004** **Issue XI**

No punitive action to be taken against 'The Voice' by S.G.A
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Westfield State's drug culture from the view of an ex-user
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Photo by Matthew Bernat

Didn't get to The Deftones show? We did. Read the review.
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Morale low in Union negotiations
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The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | December 6, 2004 | Issue XII

Electrical shortage cuts power to WSC

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Rain seeped into an electrical control box, sparking a fire outside the Woodward Center at Westfield State College Sunday afternoon. The control box was on an electrical site near Alumni Field.

The fire and water damage caused a temporary loss of power to Western Avenue.

WSC's electricity is controlled by Westfield Gas and Electric Power and they turned off the power to Western Ave for about 15 minutes, according to Curt Robie, Assistant Vice President of WSC.

A report of the incident by Deputy Tom Kane of the Westfield Fire Department, said the actual fire was called arcing, meaning there was heavy sparking coming from the switch box. Two vehicles of the college were deployed and then put on standby.

The report also said that all power was cut along with all burnt wires.

The electrical site is a chained-in area that controls the electricity to the lights at Alumni Field along with power to the old concession stand and athletic storage building.

"Just so happens that the equipment is going to be replaced anyway because of all the construction that is going on down there," said Robie about the new additions to the Woodward Center. The equipment should be removed sometime in the spring or summer, according to Robie.

The Woodward Center along with Alumni Field have been under heavy construction in the past few months as additions to the Center are still under way.

Fire - pg. 2

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Christmas is coming and the tree in front of Ely is all lit up, as is tradition, though you can't see it because we took the photo at night.

-Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

The WSC Men's basketball team had their home opener Tues, Nov, 30 in the new Woodward Center against Williams College. The Owls lost 73-57.

Flu vaccine shortage hits home for students

By Courtney Loftus
Special to The Voice

Flu season, that dreaded time of year that affects nearly everyone in one way or another, is quickly approaching, and 21-year-old Meghan Schreiner is among many Americans aware of the need to protect themselves from the virus. A Westfield State College movement science major, Schreiner has a better chance of catching the flu than most college students because she suffers from asthma.

Schreiner, who is about 5'3" with light brown hair, discovered her asthma during her sophomore year of high school, but luckily has never experienced an attack.

"It's exercise-induced," she said of her asthma, "so it isn't too bad unless I'm working out."

Schreiner gets a flu shot every year and has never had the flu. She usually gets a vaccination from a doctor in Framingham, her hometown, but in 2003 she received the shot at a clinic held on campus.

"It was downstairs in 333," she said. "I don't remember how many people were there but I did have to wait in line."

Schreiner was among 162 people, including students, faculty, and staff to attend the annual clinic set up by WSC Health Services in collaboration with an outside healthcare provider offering flu vaccinations on campus since 2001. Before 2001, flu vaccines were offered only to faculty, staff, and employees as well as a few high risk students and were provided only by Health

Vaccine - pg. 3

Campus drug culture from the view of two ex-users

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Part 2 of a series

The week of Thanksgiving 'The Voice' ran the first part of a series that took a closer look at drug use on campus at Westfield State. Through the eyes of three students we caught a short glimpse of illegal drug use on campus. Two wished to remain anonymous, "Mike" and "Sara" and a third, Ben Pegg, had lost a best friend to drug abuse. This week we finish with Mike's story and begin with Sara and Ben Pegg's stories.

About an hour had passed, Mike's audience was still intently listening to his account of four years of illicit drug use at Westfield State College (WSC). The time came for him to leave, a reporter's last question is usually, "Is there anything we didn't go over, anything else you want to say?"

"College kids should make their own decisions," said Mike as he checked his pockets for cigarettes, "It's not the college's place to tell people what to do. Doing coke in small amounts is recreational.

"If you have sex too much you get in trouble, if you stay up fifteen nights in a row you hallucinate. If a kid coming here to college for the first time asks me, 'Should I try cocaine?' I would say yes. It's not that hard to do just once," said Mike. He fished a cigarette from his pocket and headed towards the door.

Mike's story is by no means the norm for students on campus who use drugs. "Sara" lives on campus now and is a regular marijuana smoker. Sara accidentally became addicted to heroin when she smoked a joint that was laced with the drug.

"When I started waking up and saying 'I need this'", she knew it was time to kick her addiction.

She did so with the help of the WSC Counseling Center. "When I really started slipping up one of my

Drugs - pg. 2

Speedier internet connection announced at SGA

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

The Student Government Association kicked off their annual "All I Want for Christmas" fundraiser and had Dr. Joan Rasool, Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, as a guest speaker to discuss the school's recent internet problems.

Rasool spoke about the recent problems with internet access on campus, saying she was aware that, on the student side, if one computer has a virus it spreads to the others. She announced the purchase of a $45,000 software package that, when installed, should make the internet run faster.

Rasool also addressed student registration issues and spoke particularly about course section wait lists. She said she and other members of the faculty are currently working together to create sufficient class sections so students are able to take the courses they need.

Curren announced the association's annual "All I Want For Christmas" fundraiser. Curren said that every year SGA contacts the Headstart located in Westfield and adopts a number of families to buy Christmas presents for.

Curren said this year the

SGA - pg. 2

'A Nickel's Worth' responds to a recent letter to the editors.

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Voice photographer catches Taking Back Sunday at the Webster.

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SGA

association plans on adopting 15 families and needs to raise upwards of $10,000 to provide an adequate Christmas for each of the families.

In order to raise the needed funds, Curren said SGA would be going door to door in both the residence halls and the academic buildings and encouraged the senators to "get excited" about the event since it was for a good cause and one of the most important things the association did all year.

Curren also announced the Cancer House of Hope trip that was previously scheduled but cancelled due to snow and had be rescheduled for Sunday, Dec. 5 at 12:00 p.m.

Bob McDonald, Student Trustee, addressed Westfield State College's relationship with the Student Affairs Committee, saying that neither he nor President Matt Curren will be attending the regular meetings of the committee.

McDonald said the and Curren felt the committee was accomplishing nothing and pointed out that Umass Amherst had already abandoned the committee, leaving Worcester State College and Framingham State College as the only other two state college represented on the committee.

McDonald said both he and Curren would still be receiving the committee meeting agendas and if they feel the committee will be addressing something of "drastic concern," they will attend the meeting.

Vice President of Student Life, Colin Drury, said any members of the classes of 2006 or 2007 who wished to live in either the new resident halls or the apartments next year needed to fill out a deposit form that will be mailed to them and send it back by Dec. 31 or "there's about a 2% chance you'll get to live there next year."

Stephanie DeCosta spoke on behalf of the Food Services Committee and announced plans to possibly add a slush machine and a new hot chocolate similar to the one located in the Subway area. While neither addition has been confirmed, DeCosta said that Sodexho was "looking into it."

DeCosta also announced the holiday dinner will be held on Dec. 16 and would include the salad bar, an appetizer bar, a ham and roast beef carving station, scallop potatoes, macaroni and cheese, a baked potato bar as well as cheesecake, and holiday logs for dessert.

DeCosta said Sodexho was very excited about this dioner and encouraged the campus to "bring on the students!"

Kerrin Clark from the Health Committee announced that the next blood drive would take place on Monday, Dec. 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Third World Room. Sign-ups for the drive will be taking place at the Dinning Commons or students are encouraged to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE for more information.

Clark said each person who donates blood on that date would be entered in a drawing for a pair of Patriots tickets.

Vice President of Programming, Julie Swartwout, said Frank Santos, the R-rated hypnotist who visited the school was a "huge success" with over 650 students in attendance.

Swartwout said they raised over $420 and collected eight boxes of food. She said that half of the proceeds went to the Make-A-Wish foundation and the other half went to the Senior fundraiser for the Grayhouse.

Kristene Miele from the Finance Committee announced that the committee had approved a proposal to allocate $1,458 to the Kung Fu Club. Mealy said that $1,000 of the funds would pay the coach for two semesters and the extra $458 would be used towards equipment.

The senators voted in favor of the proposal.

Drugs

professors told me about counseling," said Sara. Another one of her professors also noticed Sara's bad grades. "They both forced me into the counseling center. I didn't exactly want to go to my parents," said Sara.

Located in the Lammers Annex, the WSC counseling center offers a wide range of services and workshops to students for no charge, confidential drug counseling is one of those services. "Sometimes you just need someone to talk to who has signed a confidentiality form," said Sara.

She has been heroin free since December of last year, her grades are back up, and she is very grateful to the professors that helped her into counseling. "Not many people can maintain a B average and be addicted to heroin," said Sara.

Though she is now free of heroin she continues to smoke marijuana on a regular basis. "I try to be a smart drug user, not that using drugs is smart," said Sara.

"I try to be a smart drug user, not that using drugs is smart."

- "Sara"

Drug use not only has an effect on the actual users but also on the people who know the user. Ben Pegg, an RA in Scanlon hall lost a best friend over the course of one summer.

Two years ago Pegg's friend went to Maine for the summer to live with his dad. "When he left he was 175 pounds and athletic. When he came home he looked like shit, he'd wake up, throw up, curl up into a ball and be in all kinds of pain."

Pegg said he does not use any drugs. "He was my way of not doing drugs, I would have found someone to show me, but watching him and having him tell me the stories," Pegg paused for a moment, "he was so open, I'd be hanging out with him and he'd pop some acid and offer me some and I'd say no not my thing."

Pegg said when his friend came home that summer they didn't have much in common anymore. Both play guitar and had been at the same level of proficiency when Pegg's friend left for Maine. When he returned, "We just didn't have all that much in common," said Pegg.

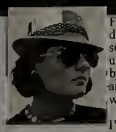
"He pissed his life away doing drugs, last I heard about him this summer he got busted at a Shaw's for stealing cough syrup. He was 'robo- tripping'," said Pegg. "Robo-tripping" consists of drinking an entire bottle of Robitussin cough syrup to get high.

Public Safety is aware that WSC is not a drug free campus. However it is also pretty clean as compared to other campuses in the area such as the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"I tell the incoming freshmen, if they do drugs, leave them at home. This is an educational environment to exercise the brain, we don't need things polluting it," said Chief of Public Safety Paul Scarmell.

From the Editor's Desk

American zombies



From November 26 until December 24, America is death-locked in the now-evil forces of the Christmas season. I'd be beating a dead horse if I went into the usual monologue about how Christmas is now owned by Wal-Mart and Hallmark and how consumers spend an obscene amount of money on worthless items that will be forgotten about by February.

I've never worked in retail, thank goodness, but I can only imagine the kind of torment the employees of the many chains go through during the holiday season. Having to get up at four in the morning in order to get to Wal-Mart at five and fend off "Black Friday" shoppers who just have to get their hands on that thirty-dollar DVD player while getting paid minimum wage isn't my idea of having a merry Christmas.

Do you ever stop to wonder about those employees and their thoughts on the holiday craze?

Brian Barlow is an employee at Stop & Shop in downtown Westfield. This year will be his second holiday season at that establishment. Recently he wrote about his experience:

"I've noticed that around the holiday season, people tend to act more like zombies than actual human beings. Yes, the general populace suddenly turns into stereotypical flesh-craving ghouls, mindlessly shambling through stores and city streets killing (or buying) anything in sight. I can feel their cold, clammy hands brush against my arm, just as they moan things like 'Excuse me sir..' and lunge in to bite a chunk out of my neck. They stumble on aimlessly, until they happen to fall upon another living thing, then move in to attack, quickly devouring the victim (or asking them a million questions and driving them insane). They care not for the feelings or well being of their victims (or people will give untold amounts of grief to those that don't give them what they want), and they attack without regard for anyone, even their own. For the walking dead (or the American consumer) search for only one thing ... human flesh (or money and possessions). Searching only to consume the flesh of the living and drink the warm blood of life, they will stop at nothing. Offer them anything other than that, and it will simply be ignored. They shall consume it all, they shall consume everything. Barricade the doors, and they will wait for you, even in the bitter cold. Attempt to fight them, and you will only die (or verbally get your face eaten off, or at the worst, fired). Be afraid, for they will consume it all ... until nothing is left. I know this wasn't written very well, but it's been on my mind lately. When you work in any sort of retail, like a grocery store, or a place like Wal-Mart, you start to notice some startling similarities between the consumer, and your typical zombie. This isn't just during the holiday season either, although it is during this time of year when it is at it's worst (consumerism). It's an everyday sort of thing, and I've been seeing it more and more each passing day. It's sad, but sometimes it's actually kind of funny, especially when you have a picture in your head of a zombie trying to shop ..."

Comparing the American consumer a zombie couldn't be a better metaphor. So while you're doing your holiday money wasting, keep in mind the people you step on and over in order just to get to that sixty-dollar puffy Gap vest.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Fire

There is a new entrance to Alumni Field with a ticket office and concession area.

The Woodward Center has been open since September. No injuries were reported.

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

photo by- Mike Coughlin

Second place winner in this year's Say What? Karaoke competition Kerrin Clark belts out "A Moment Like This" to a packed Dever Auditorium.

Vaccine

Services without the help of another source. This immunization program has proven to be both convenient and successful in past years, although some people may actually rely on its services year after year, there will be no flu shots available on campus this season.

By early November, those people who are at a high risk of catching the flu should have already received their annual flu vaccine, either by injection or nasal spray. High risk individuals include people over the age of 65, people with weakened immune systems or long-term health problems (heart disease, lung disease, asthma, etc.) or anyone else who falls into another at-risk category. It is not uncommon for people who are not considered high risk to get vaccinated as well, but this year it will be nearly impossible for these individuals to get a flu shot.

> **"I don't know if it will happen because there is such a shortage, but in the meantime I'll just have to try to stay healthy on my own."**
> **Patricia Berube**
> **Director of Health Services**

The United States is currently experiencing a massive shortage of flu vaccines for the 2004/2005 flu season, and will be receiving only about half of the 100 million doses anticipated by the government. This shortage has left the nation with a potential public health crisis and has led to the cancellation of flu shot programs across the country, including the annual clinic held at WSC. What might this shortage mean for those like Schreiner who could possibly become extremely ill from catching the influenza virus?

On October 5, health departments nationwide were informed that Chiron Corp., the company that produces half of the flu vaccines for the United States had its manufacturing license temporarily suspended by British authorities due to sterility problems. Chiron, whose manufacturing plant is located in Liverpool, was expected to provide the United States with 46 million to 48 million doses of the vaccine. Aventis Pasteur, the only other flu vaccine provider for the nation, has already shipped more than half of the doses it had intended to supply and, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is currently trying to figure out how to best distribute the remaining doses.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced on November 8 that it will receive 262,630 doses of the vaccine in addition to the 425,000 doses received over the past few months. The doses are said to be "for Massachusetts residents at the greatest risk of developing life threatening complications from the flu." In September, before the announcement from Chiron, 42,000 doses were distributed to health care providers throughout the state. The remaining doses are being held temporarily while a plan is being devised in order to guarantee vaccines for those in high-risk categories. Commissioner of the Health Department, Christine Ferguson urged the public to be patient.

"Flu shots for high risk individuals are now on the way," she said. "We are working with the health care community to develop and implement a plan to ensure that those at the highest risk of serious health complications from the flu receive the vaccine."

In general, college students are not considered to be high-risk individuals, so it should come as no surprise that flu vaccines will not be as readily available at WSC as they have been in the past. Maxim Health Systems was responsible for the clinic scheduled for October 28 in Scanlon Banquet Hall, and had planned to provide flu shots as well as meningococcal vaccines, which protect individuals against meningitis.

Meningococcal vaccines, which will be required for all WSC students in the fall of 2005, were provided as planned, but the flu shot portion had to be cancelled due to the government's need to regulate and oversee vaccine distribution.

Director of Health Services Patricia Berube, whose office is tucked in the corner of the East Wing of Scanlon Hall, explained that because of the recommendation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, risk categories must be established to determine who will receive the flu vaccine, and typically, people 18-25 are not considered high risk.

Although letters regarding the clinic were not sent to students' homes as they have been in past years, information was posted on the Health Services website, in the Campus Voice, and on flyers distributed all over campus. "We tried to reach out to as many sources as we could," Berube said, "but then again, we had to reach out and say 'Oh guess what, the flu vaccine is not available.'" Maxim Health Systems, which receives its product from Aventis, cancelled the clinic within a week of the original announcement from Chiron.

In New England, flu season usually begins in December, peaks in January or February, and lasts until March or April. Influenza, the technical name for the virus, is defined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as "a very contagious disease of the body's respiratory system." The flu is spread when a person with the virus coughs or sneezes and it becomes airborne and may be breathed in by other individuals. Symptoms of the virus start suddenly and include a fever higher than 100 degrees, a headache, severe muscle aches, and extreme fatigue. These symptoms are usually accompanied by a dry cough, sore throat, and a runny or stuffy nose. Having the flu is an extremely unpleasant experience, often lasting a week or longer.

Berube, sitting in her office with findaflushot.com (Maxim Health's homepage) displayed on her computer monitor, explained that WSC students who catch only a mild case of the flu often do not visit Health Services. When a student with more severe symptoms does go to Health Services with the flu, he or she will get over-the-counter medications like Tylenol or decongestants in order to alleviate symptoms. Berube stressed the need for those who are ill to keep themselves hydrated, get plenty of rest and be on guard.

"Sometimes, even though the flu is a virus," she said, "if it's prolonged and you're getting exhausted, you have a problem of bacterial illness creeping in." She tells students to come back if they experience any problems.

Health Services is not doing anything out of the ordinary to prepare for this year's flu season and is well-stocked with medication to deal with any problems as they arise. Students should be trying to boost their immunity to decrease the possibility of getting sick, and according to Berube, people on campus seem, thus far, to be relatively healthy.

Berube warns students about the dangers of overexerting themselves when they are sick. "One thing I do like to tell students," she said, "is when you are ill you really should eliminate your exercise and let your immune system recover from your illness."

As for the risk of a world pandemic like the 1918 flu virus, which spread around the world in three months, killing approximately 675,000 Americans and millions of other people worldwide, Berube thinks it is possible. "It's certainly something we need to be concerned about," she said. "Health departments have met on the issue, so it's not untouched upon."

On a less global scale, Berube is taking a list of the names of people on campus who are concerned about getting a flu shot, in case a source becomes available. She said that even if the vaccine will not be available until January, it will still be worth it for someone who is interested in receiving the vaccine at that time.

"They're telling us that there should be more vaccines," Berube said. "So we're just watching and waiting to see what will happen. As an asthma sufferer, Schreiner thinks that she might be able to get a flu vaccine from her doctor at home, but if not, she plans to give her name to Health Services as a concerned individual in a high-risk category.

"I don't know if it will happen because there is such a shortage," she said, "but in the meantime I'll just have to try to stay healthy on my own."

Voice of the Week

Jimmy Ottino

Year at Wsc:
Freshmen. He is undeclared but is thinking about going into communications. Jimmy is also the winner of the Say What? Karaoke contest.

Favorite thing about WSC:
The friendly environment and his rooming arrangements. He loves everyone that lives around him.

Favorite Song: Anything 80's metal.

Favorite Movie: *Forrest Gump*

Hobbies: Ping Pong, religion, music, sports, Red Sox, having a great time.

Favorite quote: "Smile, God loves you."

Thoughts on winning WSC's version of *Say What? Karaoke*:
"I am shocked, and have respect for all participants. The competion was very close. This just proves that nothing is better than 80's metal."

Jimmy says, "Look for me on TV at Conan!"

Voices Overheard

What do you think about the changes in the D.C.?

Darcie Bernier
Class of 2007
Communications & Criminal Justice

"I really dislike the new kiddie sized cups!"

J.M. Craven
Class of 2007
Communications

"I sure love the food now, but the wait is torture. I guess I'm still pretty psyched."

Chandra Harney
Class of 2006
Criminal Justice

"I like that there's presentation food, because it actually contains some flavor!"

Benjamin Pegg
Class of 2007
Undeclared

"Don't stop. French toast isn't an adequate vegetarian entree, give me something more."

Voices Overheard is compiled by: Amy Cirrone. Amy Cirrone is one fine female who is not ashamed to listen to Bob Seger.

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Disabled or Wounded but Still on Active Duty

By Ann Hull
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON–After an anti-tank mine destroyed his foot and part of his leg in Iraq, Capt. David Rozelle, 31, considered his future. In another era, the commander of a cavalry troop would have been heralded for his bravery and likely issued a medical retirement.

But Rozelle experienced a different message while hospitalized at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Nearly every officer who visited his room cheered on a comeback. The Texas native spent the next nine months swimming, weight lifting, mountain biking and getting used to running with an artificial leg. He passed the necessary physical fitness tests given by the Army medical board and was declared fit for duty. Next year, Rozelle is slated to deploy to Iraq as the commander of a 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment headquarters troop.

"I see so many young men that say, 'Well, yeah, I want to continue to serve and fight,' " Rozelle said.

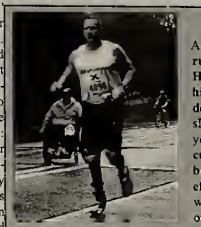
In a shift in military culture, the U.S. armed forces have recently announced new efforts to keep seriously wounded or disabled soldiers on active duty. Although there is no clear written policy, the sentiment is being echoed down from the White House.

"When we're talking about forced discharge, we're talking about another age and another" military, President Bush told wounded soldiers at Walter Reed last year. "This is a new age, and this is a new (military). Today, if wounded service members want to remain in uniform and can do the job, the military tries to help them stay."

Military commanders cite advances in medical technology as the main reason for the shift. Better prosthetics–such as Rozelle's $7,000 leg–are allowing some of the wounded to regain their fitness and continue to serve. Others say the military's new attitude toward the disabled is simply mirroring society's.

But one observer says the change is also practical. In an era of constant deployment, the Pentagon needs a more flexible and diversified workforce, said Laura Miller, a military sociologist with the Rand Corp.

"Part of this is a response to the stress on the all-volunteer forces due to the war on terror," Miller said. "And part of it is adapting to future warfare: smaller expeditionary forces that can respond to a variety of missions, including peacekeeping and humanitarian. Why throw away someone with years of training and expertise, only to re-train someone new?"



-Photo by Sgt. Lone Jewell

Army Capt. David Rozelle runs in a race in New York. He lost his foot and part of his leg in Iraq but has been declared fit for duty and is slated to return to Iraq next year. In a shift in military culture, the U.S. armed forces have recently announced new efforts to keep seriously wounded or disabled soldiers on active duty.

Although much of the nation's attention has focused on the more than 1,250 U.S. troops who have died in Iraq, more than 9,300 have been wounded, and the number climbs daily. Various service branches say they are trying to do a better job helping the wounded through the paperwork and medical board evaluations, but backlogs remain.

In April, the Army formed the Disabled Soldier Support System, or DS3, a resource network available to soldiers who are 30 percent or more disabled–paralysis or the loss of a limb or an eye. The DS3 helps soldiers weigh their options regarding retirement or trying to stay on active duty. The Army estimates that almost 900 of those injured in Iraq are eligible for the program.

Amputations account for 2.4 percent of all wounded in action in the Iraq war–twice the rate in World War I and World War II, said Chuck Scoville, the amputee program manager of Walter Reed. Sophisticated body armor and medical techniques in the battlefield have preserved lives but not necessarily limbs. Available figures through Aug. 31 show that Army hospitals have treated 138 amputees from Iraq.

About 90 percent of severely injured soldiers decide after a year to take medical retirement, according to an Army estimate. Those who want to stay on active duty must prove that they can meet certain physical requirements; many may be deemed unfit to return to their original jobs.

Several officers who spoke recently at the annual meeting of the Association of the United States Army emphasized the more welcoming policy toward retaining disabled soldiers.

"Our view is that once a soldier, always a soldier, and the Army is looking for ways to keep a number of them on active duty rather than medically retiring them," said Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel. He has pledged to personally review the case of any military amputee who feels unfairly treated.

The dictates from the top do not always trickle down to the company or unit level. Spc. Garth Stewart lost his leg in a landmine explosion in Iraq. After receiving a prosthesis at Walter Reed, he set a goal of returning to his job as a mortar man with the 3rd Infantry Division. At Fort Benning, Stewart, 23, completed hand-to-hand combat school and unloaded dozens of 100-pound ammo boxes in field exercises. But running long distances was difficult. His stump would swell and blister. He was reassigned to work in the gymnasium.

"The Department of Defense might say one thing, but there's always going to be some brand-spanking-new commander out there, and the last thing he wants is a liability," said Stewart, who took medical retirement last month and is applying to college.

David Autry, spokesman for Disabled American Veterans, one of the nation's largest veterans service groups, said he wishes the government would focus more on making sure that transitioning service members and veterans receive quality health care and timely access to benefits. But Autry applauds the Pentagon's new spirit.

"I suspect that there will be wonderful success stories and fairly miserable failures," he said. "You've got a soldier with a $20,000 computerized leg. If he gets deployed back to Iraq, if it gets sand and crud in it, it gives out, who's gonna fix it?"

Rozelle will see for himself when he returns to Iraq in the spring.

"I'm going to take a spare leg with me to war," he said. "If I need one, I'll e-mail my prosthetist and say, 'Send me a leg.' "

'Jeopardy' Brainiac Finally Loses

By Scott Collins
Maria Elena Fernandez
Los Angeles Times

In an era of fleeting celebrity, "Jeopardy!" contestant Ken Jennings strung out his 15 minutes of fame for five months, 2,700 correct answers and more than $2.5 million in prize money.

Then he met up with Nancy Zerg. And before you could say "Anticlimactic endings for $100, Alex," the clean-cut, Salt Lake City software designer who had become the winningest game show contestant in history had finally been outsmarted.

"You are indeed a giant killer," host Alex Trebek told Zerg, a 48-year-old real estate agent and former actress from Ventura, Calif., after she bested "KenJen," as he's become known to game show fans, in an episode that aired Tuesday night.

Jennings' demise started when he blew "daily double" questions twice, giving Zerg the chance to go in for the kill in "final Jeopardy." The category: Business & Industry.

The clue: "Most of this firm's 70,000 seasonal white-collar employees work only four months a year." Jennings appeared stumped, while Zerg scribbled quickly and confidently and came up with the correct answer: "What is H&R Block?"

When Jennings' answer came up "What is Fed Ex?" Zerg threw her hands to her face in disbelief. The unseated champ shook her hand and hugged her, saying "Way to go! Way to go!"

Jennings' streak helped revive interest in one of TV's oldest game shows, boosting "Jeopardy!" ratings by 22 percent (the episode broadcast Tuesday was taped Sept. 7).

"I'll probably always be remembered for this, although I don't want to peak at age 30," he said in an interview Tuesday.

Although he didn't win many points for on-screen charisma, his nice-guy demeanor won him fans.

"He was just a genuine young man who is the antithesis of what this country has made into an antihero," said Steve Beverly, a former broadcaster and college professor who founded tvgameshows.net, which followed the Jennings reign diligently.

"On 'Survivor' and shows like that, you succeed by being mean to other people and being destructive to the human spirit," Beverly said. "This guy is a genuine role model for learning. People were hungry for something different."

-File Photo

Ken Jennings shakes hands with Nancy Zerg, the woman being called the 'Giant Killer,' who ended his winning streak on Jeopardy on Nov. 30, 2004.

And next stop – three-picture deal? Well, probably not. But Jennings did just sign with UTA, a major Hollywood talent agency that also represents such A-list stars as Jim Carrey, Johnny Depp and Harrison Ford. The agency says it's looking to develop Jennings as a commercial pitchman or TV host. (Watch out, Trebek.)

"I could see him hosting a game show," said UTA partner Jay Sures, insisting that Jennings is not just smart but "incredibly witty."

Jennings – currently on leave from his regular job – hasn't exactly mastered the art of show-biz hyperbole: "Maybe this is all wishful thinking. But I'm excited to see what the options are."

Whatever the future holds, his big scene Tuesday with Zerg was short on drama.

"He loses so quickly, so terribly unsatisfying, you want him to do a great death scene or something," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for Popular Television at Syracuse University.

"Think about how long it took Jimmy Smits to die on 'NYPD Blue.' And for 'Seinfeld' and 'Friends,' there were these big countdowns. I feel cheated. I wanted something like that for Ken Jennings. Hopefully they will bring him back tomorrow for a proper farewell."

Thompson said he could picture Jennings as the host of a game show but warned that history shows pop culture has a short memory. Remember the first millionaire on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"?

"Not many people remember John Carpenter now," Thompson said. "Pop culture dissolves this stuff quickly. Time will be cruel to Ken Jennings unless he does find some other entree into celebrity-dom."

This week, though, viewers will have a hard time avoiding him. Publicists for "Jeopardy!" carefully divided his appearances between ABC and CBS, given that the game show frequently appears on ABC stations but is distributed by King World Productions, a sister company to CBS.

Wednesday morning, Jennings was set to appear on both ABC's "Good Morning America" and the syndicated "Live With Regis & Kelly," which appears on many ABC stations. Wednesday nights "Biography" on cable network A&E will profile Jennings and other "Jeopardy!" winners. And next week, a Barbara Walters special on ABC will feature Jennings as one of the most fascinating people of 2004.

Jennings appeared Tuesday on both CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman" and ABC's "Nightline."

Stacey Lynn Koerner, executive vice president at New York-based ad firm Initiative Media, credited Jennings for boosting the fortunes of "Jeopardy!" The game show's nighttime version was developed 20 years ago by Merv Griffin.

Jennings "generated a whole lot of buzz about a show that was just sort of out there, around forever, and appealed to an older demographic," Koerner said.

But the ultimate credit belongs to the "Jeopardy!" producers, who recently changed the show rules to allow contestants more than five consecutive wins.

"The longer somebody stays, the more equity is built," said Thompson. "They are a recurring character that people get to know and come back to see if he'll win or lose."

Winner Zerg did not return calls on Tuesday.

Laci's Relatives Address Scott Peterson

By Louis Sahagun
Los Angeles Times

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – The jury that will decide whether convicted murderer Scott Peterson should live or die heard Tuesday from Laci Peterson's grieving relatives, including her mother, who glared at the defendant through tears and screamed, "Divorce is an option, not murder!"

In opening testimony in the trial's penalty phase that had at least eight jurors wiping away teas, Sharon Rocha, Laci's mother, choked back sobs and said, "I miss her. I want to know my grandson. I want Laci to be a mother. I want to hear her called 'Mom.'"

Peterson remained expressionless while spectators, including sheriff's deputies, members of the public and seasoned court watchers, sat teary-eyed.

The jury, which convicted Peterson last month of first-degree murder in Laci's death and second-degree murder for killing the couple's unborn son, is expected to begin sequestered deliberations as early as Friday on whether he should be executed or sent to prison for life without parole.

Laci Peterson, 27, disappeared Dec. 24, 2002, about a month after her husband began an affair with Fresno massage therapist Amber Frey.

The headless and limbless body of Laci and her fetus were found about four months later, washed up on the rocky shores of San Francisco Bay, near where Peterson had told police he had been fishing on the day she was reported missing.

Rocha did not give her own opinion of the death penalty. But with her former son-in-law seated about 10 feet in front of her, she turned to the defendant and said, "Laci had morning sickness, and you knew that. That's why you dumped her into the bay. You knew she'd be sick for eternity!"

Rocha also spoke about the confusion, anger and emptiness the family has felt since her daughter disappeared.

"On the first Mother's Day after she was killed, I laid on the floor and cried most of the day," Rocha said. "Because she should have been there, and (should) have been a mother also. That was taken away from her.

"She gave me a picture of the sonogram; it's the only picture I have of the baby, and it was taken on Dec. 14," Rocha recalled. "The next day, Dec. 15, was the last day I saw her."

For the next 116 days, Rocha waited, not knowing where her daughter was, or if she'd ever come home. Yet, Rocha said, she managed to appear at news conferences and "beg for whoever had her to bring her home, let her go."

> **"I miss her. I want to know my grandson. I want Laci to be a mother. I want to hear her called 'Mom.'"**
>
> **-Sharon Rocha**

Referring to Peterson, she added, "There was someone who knew and didn't tell us. Instead, you let us go through this every day."

While authorities and friends searched for Laci and organized candlelight vigils for her, her husband was continuing to woo Frey, showering her with gifts and posing as a successful bachelor.

At her daughter's funeral, Rocha said she could not shake the idea that Laci "was in the casket, and I knew the baby (was) there. And I knew she didn't have arms to hold him."

"She should have had arms and a head – her entire body," she said. "It just haunts me all the time."

The dramatic testimony came after prosecutor David Harris gave a brief statement to the jury, saying death was "the only appropriate justice" for Peterson, 32, a former Modesto, Calif., fertilizer salesman. "When the defendant dumped the body of his wife into the bay, those ripples spread out and touched many lives," Harris told the jury.

Tuesday's witnesses – Rocha, her boyfriend, and Laci's brother and sister – focused on the aftershocks of Laci's death rather than attacking Peterson's character directly.

Robert Talbot, a law professor at the University of San Francisco, said Harris' opening statement foreshadowed the testimony that followed. The testimony "will focus on victim impact," he said. "They could have gone after Scott."

The defense postponed its opening statements until after the prosecution's presentation. The defense is expected to begin calling its own witnesses Wednesday – probably relatives and friends of Peterson. The presentation could last three days.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi told the jury that in addition to considering the circumstances of the crime and the defendant's history and character, "you may also consider lingering or residual doubt."

Lead defense attorney Mark Geragos was expected to appeal to any doubts that jurors might have by arguing that there was no physical evidence linking Peterson to the crime. Throughout the trial, he emphasized that authorities never found a weapon and that there were no signs of struggle on the body.

Man is Acquitted of Charges He Stalked Singer

By Karen Freifeld
Newsday

NEW YORK – A lovelorn ex-Navy diver was acquitted Tuesday of stalking rock star Sheryl Crow – and promptly accused her of making too much of it.

All he wanted to do, he testified, was ask Crow to marry him.

"I think there's better ways to tell someone you're not interested than just drag them through the criminal court system," Ambrose Kappos said.

Kappos, 38, of New York faced charges of misdemeanor stalking and felony burglary for allegedly approaching Crow as she got into her limo before her Hammerstein Ballroom concert last October, as well as sneaking into the Herald Square venue and loitering outside her dressing room.

He also was alleged to have telephoned and visited the singer's father and sister.

On the stand Monday, Kappos said he had communicated with Crow from his home – "telepathically."

Tuesday, it took the jury two hours to throw out the charges, with prosecutors having failed to make the case that Kappos went to the concert with intent to harass the singer.

Kappos said he felt vindicated.

"I think this could have been better handled if it was just recognized for what it was, an honorable man trying to court a good woman," he said. "I think a courteous 'No, thank you' from Miss Crow in this case would have been appropriate."

As for Kappos, he said he still wants to find a mate, "if the universe sees fit to make my paths cross with a really good woman that can stir my admiration and respect the way Miss Crow does.

"I pray the universe bestows abundant blessings on Miss Crow and all her loved ones," he said. "I am sorry about the misunderstanding, but that's all it was."

-File Photo

Singer Sheryl Crow charged Ambrose Kappos, 38, with stalking after he allegedly phoned and visited her father and sister and was seen loitering outside of her dressing room.

Firefighter is Killed While Serving in Iraq

By Daryl Khan
Pete Bowles
Newsday

NEW YORK – A city firefighter was killed and another was wounded Monday in Iraq when their Army vehicle came under fire outside of Baghdad, city officials said Tuesday.

Sgt. Christian Engeldrum, 39, who earned a citation for rescuing two people from a fire in 2000, was the first city employee to die in Iraq since the United States invaded in March 2003.

Daniel Swift, 24, of Ladder Co. 43 in Manhattan, suffered shrapnel wounds, and was taken to Germany for medical treatment, officials said. He is expected to recover.

A volunteer firefighter from Baldwin, N.Y., Wilfredo Urbina, was also killed.

Further details were not immediately released by the Defense Department.

Engeldrum's widow, Sharon Engeldrum, said her husbands unit – Company B of the First Battalion, 105th Infantry – was assigned to watch bridges for insurgents fleeing battles in Fallujah.

She said she was notified of her husband's death Monday by Army officials. "They came to my home, and I knew. I am a military wife from long ago. When a chaplain comes to your door, you know it's not good."

The Engeldrums have two sons, Sean, 18, and Royce, who turned 16 on Monday.

At the Co-op City fire house where Engeldrum worked as a member of Ladder Co. 61, three dozen firefighters stood quietly in two rows as station members hong black and purple bunting above the entrance Tuesday. Hanging on a wall, near his gear and equipment, was a picture of Engeldrum at Ground Zero.

Fire Lt. Brian Horton described Engeldrum as a quiet leader. "He wasn't a loud person, but you always knew he was there," he said. "He had a presence to him. When he was in the house, you knew he was there. He was a person to look up to."

"He was the core of this house," added Firefighter Mark Klinger. "Everyone looked up to Chris. This house was made around him. He made this house what it is."

Engeldrum, who began his career with the city as a police officer, graduated from the New York City Fire Academy in 1999 and was assigned to Engine Company 89 in the Bronx. He also served in Engine Company 58 in Manhattan.

Engeldrum received a Fire Department citation on July 15, 2000, as a result of Engine Co. 58's successful rescue of two people in a fire.

Sharon Engeldrum said her husband served in the Army from 1986 to 1991, including service in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq in 1990. His National Guard unit was sent to Kuwait on Oct. 1 and to Baghdad on Nov. 2, she said.

"He wanted to go over there to support his men, his guys," she said. "I don't know exactly what was going through his mind. I know he knew that I didn't want him to go. But he was a brave man. It didn't matter to him that he was afraid. He went."

The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

OPINION

A response to the neutrality decision

"A NICKEL'S WORTH"
BY BOB MCDONALD
VOICE COLUMNIST

When therapists discuss effective communication, they often examine the differences between the intent of a statement and the impact of the same statement. An effective communicator can ensure that the two are one in the same, that what one takes away from the message is the same as what was meant by the message.

Ineffective communications contain a gap between what is meant and what is heard. The result of this gap is never positive and often leads to misunderstanding and conflict.

Several weeks ago, the Student Government Association passed Resolution 2004-02, declaring a stance of neutrality in all matters pertaining to union contract negotiations. The resolution explicitly states, "this stance of neutrality shall not be construed as a failure to support but rather as a reinforcement of the separation between the interests of students and those of faculty, staff, and administrators."

Unfortunately, the intent of the Student Government Association was lost upon many members of campus. The Voice made an error in its reporting and took the intent of the resolution out of context, indicating that SGA was specifically not supporting the union. In fact, the only line from the resolution quoted in the story was actually amended out of the resolution during the course of the meeting.

I do not blame The Voice for this mix-up. Sometimes errors like this happen in journalism (just ask The Washington Times reporter who asked President Bush to comment on the passing of Yassir Arafat several days before he actually died). However, that error has caused a great deal of controversy around campus in the last few weeks.

I, like nearly all students, believe that the faculty on this campus, as well as every other state campus, are grossly underpaid. A press release from Salem State College states this fact quite clearly: "Even when substantial differences in cost of living are not taken into account, faculty at the Massachusetts state colleges receive 11% less than the average salary of their peers across all ranks." It is unfortunate that the Board of Higher Education, who writes the faculty contracts, does not realize that failing to attract the best faculty with comparable pay harms students as well as the state's welfare.

However, the Student Government Association is not the only group who has seen their intent misinterpreted. The faculty union is also guilty of sending the wrong message out.

In a letter to the editors published on November 22, Chloe Johnson wrote that a stance of neutrality does not "promote a partnership between faculty and students." However, the actions of the faculty union have not attempted to promote such a partnership either.

While I support the intent of the union (that it is important to secure higher funding of public higher education, including adequately funding faculty contracts), I have trouble supporting the union itself since its actions of late have indicated that they wish to put their own interests above those of students.

It is not the fault of the students that faculty do not have adequate contracts (the rumor that the faculty do not have any contracts is a misnomer). The fault in this situation rests with the Board of Higher Education, over which most students have little to no control. However, Shawn Robinson, the Holyoke Community College Student Trustee who is currently serving as the Board of Higher Education's student member, is an outspoken proponent of giving the state college faculty unions an adequate raise.

The actions taken or proposed by the faculty union have the somewhat unintentional outcome of punishing the Westfield State College student for the Board's failings. Walking out of campus governance, abandoning student group advising positions, taking up to thirty minutes of class time to gripe about union issues, minimizing availability to students (as quoted by Ms. Johnson), and threatening to not allow students to overload will not convince the Board that professors deserve a pay raise. These tactics only harm students who have relatively no control over the matter.

I voted in favor of Resolution 2004-02 because I think that Student Government should focus on student concerns. I also understand that the faculty union is in place to support the faculty. Student Government should and does advocate for students and student concerns.

I also know for a fact that not all members of the union agree with the tactics mentioned above. Many are ready to follow the example set forth by the AFSCME and APA unions. When their contractually agreed-upon raises were denied by the legislature, they protested and lobbied, and no student was ever put out by their actions. Unfortunately, the messages those faculty members are sending out are being lost in the screaming of the more radical members, who feel that only heavy handed tactics will accomplish their goal.

I would strongly advise the faculty union to examine both the message they are trying to send and the message they are actually sending to students. Clearly, there is a large gap between the two.

FDA and Merck: Approved to kill

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

The Senate investigation into the arthritis drug Vioxx has prompted the company who produced the drug, Merck, to make drastic changes. Merck was forced to take the drug off the shelves in late September when a study indicated that patients who took the drug for longer than eighteen months doubled their chances of having a heart attack or stroke. Many criticized the company, saying they knew years before about the harm that the drug was capable of causing and the number of heart attacks and sudden cardiac deaths has been estimated at 27,000 patients.

In the past few weeks, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has come under fire for allowing the drug to stay on the market for so long when it was clearly harming the people who were taking it. Dr. David Graham testified before the Senate Finance Committee of the FDA's shortfall and went as far as to say "I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx. We are virtually defenseless." Graham has worked in the FDA's Office of Drug Safety for twenty years and is now in jeopardy of losing his job.

However, the top executives at Merck don't need to worry about their job security. The company has announced a plan, sometimes called a "golden parachute," which has extended an offer to the 230 employees at the top to stick with the failing company. After Vioxx was pulled from the market, its stocks fell by 40% and the thought of a merger or takeover was tossed around. The details of the plan entail the high executives to receive severance payments of up to three years salary plus health and pension benefits in the event that the company was taken over or at least 20% of its stocks. All they would have to do is quit or get fired after the merger is completed. Since many jobs are lost or employees replaced after a merger, the plan is a nice cushion for the top executives who might hit hard times after losing their high-paid jobs. Lower-ranking members would also keep their pensions, stock options, and health benefits in the event of a merger if their job were retained. The plan did not include any severance package for any of the lower-ranking employees.

GlaxoSmithKline and Novartis are two drug companies based in Europe that would be the most likely to buy into Merck. However, any merger would be far into the future, given Merek's current situation. Hundreds of families have already filed personal-injury lawsuits against the company that could cost the them millions, possibly billions. The outcome of the investigation could create more lawsuits if the FDA is found liable as well. Dr. Graham has suggested other drugs be taken off the shelves, including Bextra, another arthritis drug since its side effects have also caused serious health risks. The FDA needs to stop catering to the wants of the pharmaceutical companies and start holding them responsible for the health and care of the people.

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PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Medical marijuana makes an appearance in court, again

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

Well, it appears medical marijuana has made its way back to the Supreme Court. The issue at hand is a power struggle between state and federal government. There are eleven states that have made it legal for doctors to prescribe their patients medical marijuana. The problem the federal government has with this is the fact that federal law already prohibits the use of marijuana for any purpose. Proponents of medical marijuana argue that there are thousands of patients for whom marijuana is the only helpful drug. Opponents of medical marijuana claim that the legalization of medical marijuana would only create more drug trafficking across state lines.

It is truly unfortunate that medical marijuana is not legal according to federal standards, considering there are arguments for the legalization of recreational marijuana that make one wonder why marijuana is illegal at all. It would be helpful to look at some of the arguments for cannabis legalization.

Opponents of marijuana use claim that it is a dangerous mind-altering drug. While any drug is dangerous when taken in large amounts, it is hardly appropriate to say that marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol, which is, as we know, legal. There is very little evidence that marijuana is responsible for the death of anyone. There have been reports from Britain that researchers there have determined that people who regularly smoke pot drive better when they are stoned than when they are not. Regular bud users were asked to smoke some herb and hop into a car simulation. It was decided that although reaction time was slightly lowered, the tokers drove more cautiously overall.

Thanks to federal law, such tests cannot be legally conducted in the United States. Laws are in place that prohibit any institution from accessing ganja for the purposes of research. This makes it legally impossible to even build a case for the legalization of medical dope. How can anyone present evidence when it is illegal to gain access to it?

Hopefully, America will allow the people to decide on this issue. Polls do suggest, after all, that around three-fourths of adult Americans support the use of weed for medical purposes. People use this drug for different reasons, including helping people with AIDS and those undergoing chemotherapy gain necessary weight. It would be helpful if tests could be done to prove that grass has beneficial medical properties. Either way, I don't think it is fair to make any decision regarding a drug like marijuana without researching it. Especially when respected doctors and researchers claim that marijuana is not as dangerous as a drug that is already legal.

There's a first time for everything

"This Owl's Howl"
By John Deschenes
Voice Columnist

Sadly, because of Ron Artest, I have to address the National Basketball Association. I'm sure most of you know what happened in Oetroit recently, but I want to break it down step by step.

Indiana's Ron Artest committed an unnecessary and somewhat hard foul against Detroit's Ben Wallace. There was less than one minute to go in the game and the Pacers had a victory wrapped up. What was Artest trying to accomplish? Artest is a guy who has had numerous problems with his on-court antics. He has earned several fines and suspensions for his play, which at times can be described as dirty. The difference in this incident is that Artest finally met his match in Wallace.

Ben Wallace is built like a truck and won't back down from anybody. He stood up for himself, his team, and the rest of the NBA by confronting Artest. To his credit, Artest did not respond to Wallace's violent shove. For once Artest was the one showing some self-control. That didn't last too long though.

While 'chilling' on the scorer's table, Artest was hit with a plastic cup presumably filled with beer. Artest decided to run into the stands and attack the idiotic fan. So Artest commits a hard foul against one of the most feared players in the league, backs down from that player's challenge, and then tries to attack a much less intimidating fan? One word comes to mind: COWARD. You should feel real proud of yourself Ron. Not only is he a coward, but he is incredibly stupid. He attacked the wrong fan! It would be bad enough attacking the fan that hit you, but not knowing who did it and attacking an innocent fan as a result? This guy is crazy.

Dope #2 is Stephen Jackson. This guy was relatively unknown in the NBA, but he certainly made a name for himself the other night. Instead of going into the stands to pull Artest out of the crowd, Jackson went in and started throwing punches. He couldn't even have tried to break up the brawl? The fan he clocked should press charges as far as I'm concerned.

Oope #3 is Jermaine O'Neal. When Artest returned to the court he was confronted by a fan looking for a fight. The fan was punched by Artest and then tackled by a few people. I have no problem with that. While all of this was going on, the fan's friend tried to stop the fight. The fracas was broken up and then came the disgusting part. While fan #2 (the peacemaker) was on his knees/getting to his feet, not looking for a fight, he received an early Christmas gift courtesy of O'Neal. O'Neal slid across the court and leveled the fan with a vicious punch to the face, knocking him to the ground. Way to be a gutless punk Jermaine, you really reflect the NBA in a good manner. I hope you get charged with assault...

I know Wallace overreacted, but SOMEBODY had to stand up to Artest for once. By far, the dumbest move of all was Artest running into the stands. The fan that threw something at him is an idiot, but since when did the concept of vigilante justice become acceptable in professional sports? I hate to tell you this Ron, but there is security for a reason! If you don't charge into the stands the security will most likely handle the situation. Asking security to try and stop the melee you created after that is unreasonable Ron. At that point in the game, a lot of the security staff members were watching the exits and parking lots to ensure the safety of the fans leaving a blowout game early.

I don't want to let the Detroit fans off the hook though. What could have been a small skirmish turned into a complete disaster. Just because you buy a ticket it does not give you the right to do whatever you want. There are plenty of people who will get away with throwing stuff at this game, and it is unfortunate. I understand the fans reacting in self-defense, but from what I saw that can only be attributed to a handful of them. The rest of the fans should feel embarrassed for escalating the situation.

There is plenty of blame to go around, but in the end it all comes back to Ron Artest. He has been suspended for the rest of the season, which I think is appropriate. Why? It will allow him to take his mind off of basketball. He can promote his music and spend time with his family. The last thing I want the NBA to do is abandon him though.

The NBA is supposed to be a family, so they need to reach out to him and give him support. Hopefully Artest will reach back.

I don't know how to take the other suspensions as it is hard to put a number on how many games fits the crime, but I want to commend NBA commissioner Oavid Stern. He hands out the suspensions himself and clearly wanted to send a message that this behavior will not be tolerated. The precedent has now been set and all the players know it.

Basketball isn't a terrible game, but this incident clearly hurts the NBA's image. When played properly, basketball can be very exciting. If more players would learn the fundamentals of the game by going to college, and more teams would play an exciting style the NBA would be just fine, but that's for another day.

WSC Republican's Club 'gives a cluck'

By David Pageau
Associate Editor

On Monday, November 15 and Wednesday, November 24, the day before Thanksgiving, a number of the Westfield State College Republicans worked on a food drive outside of Geissler's Supermarket in Agawam. During the two days the group collected over one hundred and twenty dollars in cash donations that were used to buy turkeys and hams, and over five hundred and fifty canned and non-perishable items. All of the food and monetary donations were raised for the YWCA/New Beginnings Battered Women's Shelter Thanksgiving dinner.

Republican club members had no idea the turnout that they would receive, or the emotion that many people could put into donating their groceries and money to a good cause. Republican Club secretary Jill Guilmain said, "The whole experience turned out to be very humbling and emotional. Many women who came to give food began crying."

Despite the seemingly last minute nature of the food drive, many gave very generously, highlighting the true meaning of the holiday. Guilmain said, "People were coming up to us with entire shopping bags full of non-perishable items. One man in particular told me that he was unemployed but knew that these women had it worse than him, so he wanted to give what he could." Republican club chairman Alex Trzasko added, "By having the food drive both some time before and then right before the holiday we hoped to collect more donations from people who prefer donating at different times, or even wanted to donate twice. Apparently it worked."

Trzasko continued, "We really wanted to do something for the surrounding Westfield community, something to truly help others and give the entire profit to the cause. That is what Thanksgiving is all about and we knew that the battered women's shelter was a charity that we had to help out."

While the food drive turnout proved to strike an emotional chord in the Republican Club and many of those who donated, members agreed that the most satisfying part of the experience was taking a picture of the giant pile of non-perishable food, turkeys and hams in the garage of Republican's club vice-chairman Adam Shibley, and then bringing it to the shelter.

Shibley said, "It was just such a great feeling to know that the time and effort we put into this cause had such an amazing impact, and that the charity we were donating all of this food to truly needed it. We were glad to help in the way we did."

Arts & Entertainment

'Say What? Karaoke' raises the

BY BRIDGET GLEASON
INTERN

On December 1, in Dever Auditorium, ten finalists took part in the final round of "Say What? Karaoke." The event was put on by SGA and hosted by Colin Drury. There was a wide range of singing styles from country to 80's metal. A particular favorite among the crowd was "Jimmy O" who amused the audience with his interpretation of "Here I go again," originally sung by Whitesnake. He dressed as a singer straight out of the 80's complete with a mullet wig.

The finalists each sang a song of their choice and later, five contestants were chosen to compete for the grand prize, a trip to the Conan O'Brian Show. The five finalists were Jackie Healey who sang "Something to Talk About," Jimmy Ottino sang "Here I go again," Matt Benoit with "Semi-Charmed Life," Monty Geer with "I Touch Myself," and Kerrin Clark with "A Moment Like This."

In this last round, the contestants were forced to sing a song chosen at random. Jackie Healey took the stage first adding her own flare to "Physical," by Olivia Newton John. Next was Jimmy Ottino who once again had the audience laughing while taking on the challenge of "Waterfalls," by TLC. Matt Benoit impressed the audience when he busted out the lyrics to "Butterfly," by Crazy Town. Monty Geer, who amused the audience in the first round by dressing like a monster (a costume which he made himself) and singing "I Touch Myself" with his puppet side-kicks, gave the audience a humorous rendition of "Achy Breaky Heart." Kerrin Clark was the final contestant to sing her randomly selected song, "Goodbye Earl," by the Dixie Chicks.

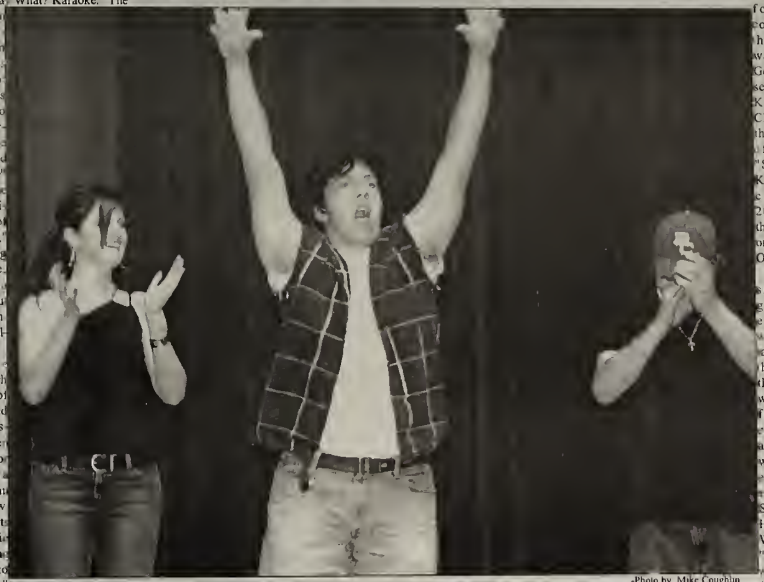
Each contestant was extremely talented, making it rather difficult for the judges to choose a winner. The judges consisted of Dr. John Paulman of the communications department, Dr. Maddy Cahill also of the communications department, Ryan Forsythe of Admissions, and Caitlyn Tansey also of admissions.

Aside from the singing talents, WSC's Dance Team entertained the audience both at the beginning of the show, and during intermission. At the end of the show, a guy and girl were randomly selected from the audience to sing a rather amusing version of "Summer Nights," from Grease.

The results of the show are as follows; coming in third place was Monty Geer, taking second was Kerrin Clark, and the winner of WSC's "Say What Karaoke" contest 2004, was the one and only, Jimmy Ottino.

"The show was great, everybody was very talented and the one with the mullet was really funny," commented a freshman who chooses to remain anonymous. Sophomore Heather Wolfe said, "The show was fantastic!" And junior Mel Meehan ads, "I thought the show was amazing and everyone did a really good job."

The show came to an end with Jimmy Ottino bringing the audience home singing "Here I Go Again" one last time while his newly acquired fans threw their arms up in triumph.



-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Jimmy Ottino celebrates when he hears he has won first place in the Say What karaoke competition. Ottino sported a mullet wig and a torn t-shirt as he sang Whitesnake's "Here I go again on my own".

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

One contestant sings Third Eye Blind's "Semi-charmed life" in his bid for the top spot at the competition.

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

Here's one contestant that made a big impression on the judges with her rendition of "Let's give 'em something to talk about."

An awesome night for Taking Back Sunday

BY CLIFF ASHBROOK
VOICE PHOTOGRAPHER

The first thing a person notices when they enter Hartford, CT, is that it is a big, busy city. The Taking Back Sunday concert was no different. It was packed full of people and featured four bands; Like Yesterday, Funeral for a Friend, Atreyu, and headlining Taking Back Sunday.

When first entering the Webster Theatre, one first notices the enormous signs that hang on the walls taunting the crowd; "NO SMOKING" and "NO MOSHING." Much to the crowd's displeasure these rules were enforced very well by security, which made sure no one got out of hand. I've been to many shows before but this one was different. Instead of the usual packed crowd of "emo" and "hardcore" kids dressed in black and rocking out to their favorite bands, the Webster Theatre was split in the middle between the usual crowd and to my astonishment, pre teen girls with their mothers and fathers. There were packs of these girls, filling the outside of the crowd wearing the new merchandise being pushed by the bands at the door.

The show itself, except for the screaming girls, was good. The crowd didn't seem to care for the opening band Like Yesterday. The fans were obviously there to see Taking Back Sunday. Funeral for a Friend played second and got the crowd started, asking for the crowd to make a "circle pit" in spite of the protests from security. Atreyu was on third and was different from the other bands. They were more "hardcore" or "metal core" but the crowd loved the variety and went crazy for the metal solos on guitar and the screams from the lead singer. Finally, Taking Back Sunday took the stage and opened with "Set Phasers to Stun" the first single off their new album *Where You Want To Be*. Surprisingly, they played songs from their old album *Tell All Your Friends* confusing the little girls in the crowd who had just jumped on the Taking Back Sunday bandwagon. Taking back Sunday ended the show with an encore of an acoustic song from their new album *New American Classic* and finished the night with their most popular song "Cute Without the 'E' (Cut From the Team)."

Overall, except for the little girls, the show was great, Taking Back Sunday played an awesome show and the crowd was pleased.

Taking Back Sunday performs at the Webster on November 20

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

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Visit the Webster Theatre Online at www.websterthetheatre.com
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Paintball not just for high school kids

BY STEVE BRUSO
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

The sun was going down and the woods were getting darker. Jen Wyse crept forward to peek around the tree she was behind. The lens of her mask was fogging up, it was getting dark, and the thick underbrush obscured most everything.

"Do you see anything?" she whispered over her shoulder to Jess Luby.

"I can't see a thing my mask's all fogged up," Jess said.

The two 20-year olds were sitting back-to-back and were on the look-out, both wearing army fatigues and looking every inch like G.I. Jane.

That's when Jen saw someone sneaking down the trail, crouched low and keeping to the underbrush. His gun was wrapped in camouflage tape, as was the bulbous pod on the top, and he swept it back and forth as he searching for enemies. Jen signaled to Jess, who moved up beside her. Lying flat on their stomachs like two soldiers in war, the two girls brought their bright silver and blue guns to bear on the enemy, raining a barrage of blue and orange paintballs on their target and screaming their war-cries.

These two women are part of a group of fifteen Westfield State College students who have taken interest and formed their own paintball area, deep in the woods off campus property. And according to The National Professional Paintball League, these students aren't alone in their interest of paintball: almost ten million people played paintball in the U.S. last year in sites just like the one near Westfield State College.

"I really thought it was a professional area, not just a spot in the woods," Jess said.

The Site, as the paintball area is called, is roughly the shape of a triangle. One leg of the triangle runs parallel to the course of the Little River, another stretches along side a dry, rocky creek bed; and the last is a long, well-packed dirt trail with thick brush on either side. The area of the Site is roughly the same as a football field. The dense canopy above shades the area, keeping the Site a good five to ten degrees cooler, although it is still well-lit from the patches of sun that sneak through.

Originally, paintball had a much baser form than it does today. Farmers and rangers used paintball guns for marking cows and trees, and the paintball guns were primitive by today's standards, as they were single-shot and manually reloaded every time. Now, paintball guns are mostly semi-automatic, and some are more advanced than that, having settings for three round burst, full-auto, and "response"—that is, two shots with every pull of the trigger; one as you pull, and another as you release.

The trail of the first leg of the Site can be difficult to find, despite it being about as long as a football field. The thick undergrowth and steady accumulation of leaves has obscured the path some, adding a soft, crunchy layer to walk upon. However, the steady passage of feet has prevented any plant-life from growing in the trail, so it isn't entirely hidden.

Knotted roots reach out in the middle of the trail to tip you if you aren't careful of your footing. A steep ravine creeps up on your right, its trees surely the only thing holding the ground together at such a steep grade. Upon peering over the edge, you can see a trail running upon the bottom, very nearly parallel to the one you're walking, except it's a good thirty feet below you.

"I'd definitely fall down that hill," Jess said, eyeing the drop-off.

"I think I'd get caught in the moment, with paintballs flyin' all around me, and I'd forget it was there." Jen said.

Despite the fact that paintballs come shooting out of the barrel at around 300 feet per second, or close to 200 miles an hour, few people would say that it actually hurts.

"It felt more like being hit with a rat-tail," Jen said, referring to the prank of twisting a damp towel and snapping it at someone. "Paintball to bare skin stings, but with even a shirt, you don't really feel it, you just know you've been hit."

Continuing on, you can hear the sound of the Little River gently frolicking over smooth, round rocks. And as you get closer to the river, the mosquitoes become more abundant as well, buzzing in your ear, droning out the sound of the birds and the river.

Rounding the bend, winding amongst thick oak trees, you come into view of the Plateau. Although called the Plateau by the paintballers, it's really not more than an elevated clearing in the forest. The area is about the size of a three-car-garage. That is, a three-car-garage without a roof, for the canopy overhead is virtually non-existent and the clearing is brightly lit by the sun.

Originally, this area appears to have been used for college party-goers. A large fire-pit, carefully ringed by stones, sits on the side closest to the river. The broken glass bottles in it stand testament to the Bacchanal crowds.

"This place really needs to be cleaned up though. Some people don't pick up after themselves." Jess said, nudging a Blue Streak paintball box.

Jen bends at the knees and begins plucking bottle-caps from the dirt, brushing them off on her pants.

"I have a necklace I'm making out of these," Jen said, smiling.

The price of paintballs range anywhere from twenty dollars to sixty or even eighty dollars, depending on the brand name and the quality of the paintballs. The lower quality paintballs are easily distinguished between the better quality ones, as one can see little dimples and distortions on the thin plastic shell of the paintball. The higher quality ones have a much harder shell that doesn't squish easily between one's fingers.

In order to play paintball, you only need a paintball gun, a paintball mask, paintballs, quick feet and a quicker trigger-finger.

The paintball guns tend to be the more expensive of the two material components needed for the game. They start around sixty dollars and can go as high as $1,500. A typical starter paintball gun is a toss-up between the Spyder and the Tippmann 98 Custom. Both are fairly inexpensive—at least as far as paintball guns go—the Spyder costing around sixty dollars and the Tippmann 98 Custom costing around ninety dollars.

Paintball masks tend to be the least expensive equipment one needs to play. The cheaper ones can be purchased for around thirty dollars, while the more expensive ones cost sixty dollars and up, the differences being mostly in the material used for the lenses. The more expensive masks have high-quality anti-fog lenses that better resist every players worst nightmare—a fogged up mask.

The Plateau is largely circular with four paths leading to it. Placed at each of these paths, leaning against a tree or shrubbery, are wooden docking pallets, the kind used in warehouses and shipping companies. Red, green, yellow, orange, pink, and blue paint blotches show evidence that they have seen some combat. It is behind these pallets that the paintballers will duck, using them as cover during intense paintball-fire.

Paintball - Page 12

WSKB in New York for under-ground music convention

BY HALEY PATON
VOICE REPORTER

Part 2 of a Series

[**Editor's note:** The first part of this story appeared in the November 22nd issue.]

"It was completely off the wall. It was such a formal setting for such an informal movie."

Although their work could be taken as sophomoric at times, the duo seeks to use visual humor as a backdrop for social satire. While *South Park* is a cartoon, the characters in *Team America* are all Thunderbirds-inspired marionettes set in a Bruckheimer-inspired action movie. Rather than being partial to any one cause, Parker and Stone find a way to make fun of, and therefore expose, everyone for what they are. In *Team America*, the American Action Force recklessly destroys several world landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Sphinx, in their efforts to save the world from terrorism; the fictional "Film Actors Guild," or "F.A.G.," led by Alec Baldwin, seek to shut Team America down, believing that they as actors know what is best for the world; and the leader of Korea is revealed to be the mastermind of the terrorist movement in the Middle East.

Of actors' involvement in politics, Matt Stone, the curly-haired, glasses-wearing member of the duo, said, mimicking an announcer, "It's like saying, 'Here's what's going on in Iraq, and here's Cookie Monster." Consequently, Stone and Parker have successfully pissed off actor Sean Penn, who wrote them a scathing letter. Sean Penn has made two visits to Iraq urging for peace and understanding from the United States, first in December of 2002 and then in September of 2004.

Of the lead character, which is, incidentally, an actor chosen by Team America to work undercover against the terrorists, Stone and Parker said that his struggle with the task was meant to express the current feeling of being "ashamed to be an American."

Hoey says of *Team America*, "I like that they looked at it from both sides," mentioning that he appreciated the "political satire," as well as the visual humor that Hoey says, "showed [the puppets'] limitations."

As far as influencing people to vote either way, Stone and Parker have no set agenda and expressed their disgust for documentary filmmaker Michael Moore. According to Matt Stone and Trey Parker, Moore used (in his film *Bowling for Columbine*) a clip of an interview with Stone out of context right next to a clip of a cartoon that looked like *South Park* but was actually created by artists that Moore hired and had nothing to do with Stone and Parker. Of Moore, Matt Stone said that 'he tries to create connections where there are none' and also said that since he and Trey Parker are from Colorado, they grew up with guns and so really didn't have anything to say about Moore's issue.

The duo said that they have no idea what the right thing to do would be, as far as the election is, but did urge people to go to the polls.

"And no matter who gets voted in, there will still be a giant shithead running this country," said Stone.

After watching the film, it's time to head to a music show. Wednesday night Sonic Youth play at the Irving Plaza. Talking to the crowd, lead singer Thurston Moore is laid back in his t-shirt and jeans, asking the audience members where they're from.

"Bring it up here, your Wisconsin cheese. I'm gonna get some Brooklyn cheese."

Talk of politics is kept to a minimum. All that Moore says of the election is, "I hope you're all registered to vote, I really do....I don't care who you vote for, I just hope you do."

While he's laid-back talking to the audience, a change comes over Thurston Moore when he performs. A seriousness takes hold. And yet there is also a teenage-boyishness that overtakes the 46-year old musician. He stands on the right of the stage, playing his guitar and singing into the microphone with his mop of reddish-brown hair hanging in his angular face. At one point he's climbed up on a ladder near the drummer, scraping his guitar against the ladder's edge, then turning it around and holding the guitar up over his head, letting the dissonance ring.

Kim Gordon, Moore's wife, 51, takes over as lead singer. At first look, she seems like a young woman in her twenties. Gordon wears a simple cotton dress, her blonde hair hanging in her face much like her husband's, only longer. A sultry powerhouse, she lifts her arms up over her head as she lets out a voice that belies her age. Jumping and spinning in a circle as she sings, she is a dancer.

It isn't until the stage lights shift that you notice the slight lines in her face.

Reflecting on seeing Sonic Youth, Hoey looks down and smiles, chuckling to himself.

"I liked the music; I didn't like the feedback."

Hoey was more impressed by hip-hop artist Talib Kweli.

"He knew his audience. Everybody who was there was there to see him, and he knew that and he took advantage."

According to Bob Hoey, anyone who is at all interested in hip-hop music should check out Talib Kweli.

"Anyone could get into the music, anyone," says Hoey. He refers to Kewli as "the marijuana of hip-hop," cheekily making a comparison to the so-called 'gateway drug.'

As far as going to some of the panels on the music industry offered as part of the annual College Music Journal Marathon, Hoey went to one on censorship and one on promotions in an effort to somewhat better understand the industry and/or how it relates to his job as a college music director. As music director, his job is to get CDs that are sent to the station reviewed and put on the racks for the DJs to play, as well as to chart which CDs get played and report that information back to the College Music Journal, which his college's station is licensed under.

"Basically my job is dealing with promoters," says Hoey.

On Friday Hoey went to a panel entitled, "Under the Influence: Navigating the Techniques of Radio Promotion."

The general message, he says, was, "don't let them get to you." Promoters, just with the nature of their business, can get somewhat demanding.

"It's a business thing," says Hoey. "That wasn't too informative. They both [the panels] were kind of unimpressive. That was the only two I went to."

Even if the particular panels that he went to weren't quite what he might have hoped, Bob Hoey is still glad that he went to the College Music Journal Conference, if only to get a taste of New York City.

So would he go back?

"I would go back," Hoey says.

"Definitely."

Don't be a grinch during this season, lighten up and try these holiday shopping tips

THE FASHION FILES

WITH LISANDRA BILLINGS

With the holiday season quickly approaching, money and good ideas for gifts seem to be big problems for college students preoccupied with finals and getting last minute papers in on time. With hopes to destress your holidays a bit, here are some great gift ideas for every price range…

For the student on a budget, sometimes more than $20 isn't an option. CD's are a great gift that don't cost a lot and can cover almost everyone on your gift list. For mom or dad, Simon & Garfunkel's Old Friend's: Live On Stage was recently released and is the perfect gift to make your folks remember the "good ol' days." Some other great releases for your rents range from Elton John's *Peachtree Road* to Tony Bennet's *The Art of Romance*.

Girls, for the boyfriend try Collision Course, collaboration between Jay-Z and Linkin Park. Other new releases ideal for a guy include: Eminem's *Encore*, Ludacris's *Red Light District*, Breaking Benjamin's *So Cold*, as well as *Street Disciple* from Nas.

Guys, for the women in your life try: Vanessa Carlton's *Harmonium*, Destiny's Child's *Destiny Fulfilled*, *Breakaway* from Kelly Clarkson or Gwen Stefani's *Love, Angel, Music, Baby*. Other great cheap gift ideas are posters, picture frames, books or DVD's.

If you have a bit more money to spend, say fifty bucks, your options open up a little more so your gift can be a bit more personalized. The perfect gift for your parents is a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant. Nothing says "Merry Christmas mom and dad!" like a nice romantic meal away from the kids. Parents also love anything from your trusty campus store. A coffee mug that says "Westfield State College Mom" not only gives them bragging rights but also saves a lot of time for you.

For the brother or boyfriend try a video game or if they don't have a game system seasoned shows on DVD, like Seinfeld, Family Guy, The Simpson's or Reno 911 are a great addition to their DVD collection.

For the girls, I'd suggest a scarf, hat and mittens set or some perfume. Victoria's Secret, Gap and Bath & Body Works have many different great scent selections to choose from. Another great and thoughtful gift for a girl is a Build-A-Bear. These stuffed animals can be built at your local malls and can be personalized with sounds and clothes. Nothing says "I love you, shnookums" like a stuffed bear.

The big spender has a little more to choose from. For the parents try a DVD player (if they haven't been introduced to the 21st Century) and if they have one pick up the Star Wars Trilogy DVD set or the recently released Lord of the Rings Trilogy. Feeling really generous? Send mom and dad to a Blue Man Group performance, even if they've already been you can never get bored with the Blue Men.

Ladies, the big gift this season for men is Red Sox tickets. After this years World Series even if they weren't a fan before, everyone wants to go to a game.

For the girls jewelry is still an option, but make sure you know what she likes. Camera phones and concert tickets are also great gift ideas, even if an artist isn't touring until the spring or summer, it gives a girl something to look forward to.

Other great gift ideas are a mini iPod, digital cameras, jackets, portable DVD players and XM radio.

No matter what you're buying or who your buying it for keep it personal and you can never lose.

Holiday Shopping Tips

* Be prepared with a list of people you need to shop for as well as specific gift ideas, it will be less stressful then browsing through the store and other crabby holiday shoppers.
* If possible, order gifts online or at least look up the gifts before you hit the stores. This way if you decide the gift isn't what you're looking for you can be prepared with another idea.
* ALWAYS keep every reciept. Keep an envelope in your car glove compartment and put the reciepts into the envelope as you buy gifts.
* When it's crunch time and you really need to get your shopping done, go alone. An extra person only slows you down and provides unnecessary opinions.
* Don't wait until the last minute. If you see something for someone and it's September, buy it! It's one less present you'll have to buy the day before Christmas and one more name to cross off your list!

Paintball cont.

"I think it's really cool that this is the meeting area," Jess said.

Often when the paintballers will play, the Plateau is the "loading area": the place you go to meet before the game, and the place you go after you've been hit. The concept of the game is fairly simple. Teams are made and the object is to eliminate the players of the other team. When one has been hit, the rule is to stick the gun in the air, shout that you've been hit, and proceed to the "loading area". Other variants of the game include the ever-popular capture-the-flag game and "attack and defend," where two teams are made and one team defends a position while the other attacks it.

Of the four paths, two are steeply inclined and can be treacherous to navigate when trying to move quickly or stealthily. The one closest to the river is nearly straight up, with tangled masses of roots forming a natural staircase. The other path is also quite steep, although this one is made of thick caramel-colored dirt and well-rounded rocks and is opposite from the other path.

"This side by the river here is really easy to ambush because you're on lower ground," Jess said. "People can't really see you."

The two other paths leading from the Plateau are nearly flat, the only danger being the roots that rib them.

Injuries from paintball tend to be minor and few. The impact of paintballs leave welts which disappear in a few days. Paintball masks prevent injuries to the eyes and face, while at the same time shielding the ears and jaw line. The only real injury suffered by one of the students was a badly sprained ankle, and this was caused by the running aspect rather than paintball itself.

Walking down the path leading to the river, you can see that the Little River lives up to its name, as it is easily a stone's throw across. The water is shallow—only a foot or so deep—and runs quickly over many smooth rocks. In the middle is a long patch of land, like a mini-island, thickly covered by foot-tall, yellowish grass.

Keeping the river on your right as you continue down the path, you come to a bend going to the left. Here, the trail is very easily found. The path here has been worn by the passing of many feet and the dirt itself has become hard-packed. This is the second leg of the triangle. Close by is a dry creek bed and a small clearing. Two huge craters lay right beside the path, perhaps sites of ancient trees long since collapsed and rotted. The ditches are three or four feet deep; a perfect spot to bunker down in.

"The first game we played, we went for those ditches," Jess said. "That's a sweet spot."

The rocky creek bed nearby is mostly dry, having only a few murky puddles along the edges. Many fallen branches and logs, once immersed in the waters of the creek, now are exposed to the light.

The clearing is about the size of a large shed. The pine trees close by form a loose ring around it, giving the appearance that the plateau is really a giant's palm and the trees his fingers.

"After we didn't see anybody, we moved up there in those trees," points Jen, indicating the dense underbrush and four-foot-tall saplings by the creek bed.

"That's where we saw Brown coming down the trail and we had a mini gun-fight over that clearing," Jen said, referring to another student who plays.

Ask anyone who plays paintball why they play, and they will most certainly reply that it's all about the adrenaline.

"It's such a rush!" both Jen and Jess said.

In a game about sneaking around, ambushes, cover-fire, and sprinting for cover, and it's no surprise the "fight or flight" reflex is such a big factor. The type of game played by the students, referred to as "wood ball", tends to be more like a military training exercise, in which strategy plays a bigger part than charging out like Rambo, but the adrenaline rush is still there.

"It was kinda scary playing in the woods," Jen said, "I was so afraid of snapping a twig and being spotted."

Continuing on the second leg of the Site, you come to a gently-sloped path on the left. The leaves here lay thick, and the path becomes narrower as it goes, being only a foot wide for the second half. Thick brush and small trees nestle along both sides of this path. Dotting the first part of the path are six boulders, each the size of a person crouched into a ball. Through the dense undergrowth, far in the woods on the right, are the remains of an antique car. The swooping fenders and the tall, flared grill dates it somewhere in the 1930's.

"That's a good spot to take cover behind those rocks, and even on that little hill," Jess said.

As you come to the end of this path, ducking in between two car-sized bushes, you come to the third leg of the Site. This trail has been very well worn, the wide tire-gouges in the earth giving evidence to its use by ATV's. Both sides of this trail are densely wooded by small pine trees.

"You can definitely climb in there hardcore," Jess said.

The trees overhead shade the trail, giving the area a somewhat unnerving feeling. It's the feeling you get when you're alone, but in the Site during paintball, it's the feeling you get when you think you're being watched.

"If it's dark, you're so dead if you walk through here," Jen said.

Walking back from the Site, the two college girls look to each other and say: "We can't wait to play again."

Send us your movie, concert or CD reviews!

thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

or

Ely C-248

Williams Outscores Westfield, 73-57

Westfield State sophomore Ricky Ogboin christened the first game in the new field house with a slamdunk. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

WESTFIELD – Senior forward Tucker Kain (Hunting Valley, OH) scored a game-high 20 points and junior forward Andrew Newton (Whitinsville, MA) scored 18 to lead Williams College to a 73-57 victory over Westfield State College on Nov. 30.

Williams – the NCAA Division 3 runner-up last season and the national champions in 2003 - raised its record to 5-0 in winning the first basketball game played in Westfield State's new field house – the Woodward Center. The Owls dropped to 1-3 before a crowd of 750.

Westfield took an early 3-0 lead on a 3-point basket by Tony Collier, but Williams ran off 12 straight points for a 12-3 edge with 13:25 left in the first half. The Ephs tall frontline dominated the inside at the outset led by the 6-5 Kain and the 6-8 Newton.

Williams led 36-24 at halftime on the strength of its 57 percent shooting from the floor. Westfield closed to within nine points several times in the second half, but the Ephs responded with some key 3-point baskets and transition buckets.

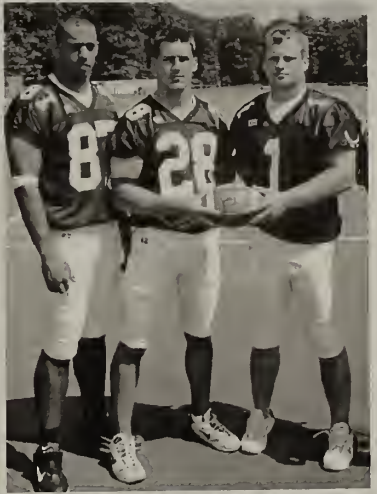
Junior guard Bayete Gordon (Amherst, MA) led Westfield with 16 points and four assists. Collier collected 12 points and senior forward Vaso Jaukovic had 10 points and a game-high six steals.

A pre-game ceremony was held Nov. 30 to commemorate the first basketball game played in Westfield's State College's new field house - the Woodward Center. Meeting at center court for a special presentation of the game ball were, left to right, Westfield State captains Vaso Jaukovic and James Ogbunize; Westfield State alumni Bob Farr ('55) and Don Farr ('57), and Williams College captains Jaris Cole, Michael Graham and Tucker Kain. The Farr brothers are Westfield residents, and Don Farr scored a game-high 29 points in the first game played in Westfield State's former homecourt - Parenzo Gym - in November of 1956. Williams College - which was the first New England college to win an NCAA Division 3 national championship (2003) and was national runner-up in 2004 - won the game, 73-57. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Westfield State Varsity Sports Fall Banquet

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall

Salisbury University of Maryland celebrates after defeating Middlebury College, 6-3, in the NCAA Division 3 field hockey championship game that was hosted by Westfield State College on Saturday, Nov. 20. NCAA Division 3 records were set for most goals scored in the exciting championship game. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*



Westfield State seniors Jessie Holmes, left, and Matt Wooliver, right, were New England Football Conference first team all-conference selections. Senior David Trueira, middle, was second team all-conference and also received the Hal Chalmers Award as the top scholar-athlete in the NEFC. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Owls Named All NEFC In Football

Six Westfield State football players were named to the New England Football Conference (NEFC) All-Conference teams for the 2004 season.

First team selections were senior defensive end Jessie Holmes (Springfield), senior linebacker Matt Wooliver (Lanesboro) and junior punter Mark Puchalski (Whatley). The Owls again led the NEFC in total defense.

Wooliver ranked second on the team with 57 tackles, including 35 solo stops, 11 tackles for losses and two sacks. Holmes finished with 33 tackles, including 11 tackles for losses and four sacks.

Holmes set a school record during his junior season with 14 sacks when he was an All-East Region all-star. Puchalski punted 46 times for a 38.1 average. The 6-2, 230 pounder also was an honorable mention all-conference selection at running back. He rushed for 372 yards and caught 18 passes for 229 yards from his fullback position.

Second team all-conference selections for the Owls were junior defensive back Jay Abair (Ludlow), senior quarterback Jon Meczywor (Lanesboro) and senior wide receiver David Trueira (Wilmington).

Abair led the Owls with four intereceptions and posted 15 tackles and three pass breakups. Meczywor – a senior transfer from the University of Maine – earned all-conference honors despite being sidelined two games with an injury. The 6-5, 225 pounder completed 113 of 222 passes for 1,425 yards and eight touchdowns. He also had 128 net yards rushing.

Trueira had 46 receptions for 609 yards and three touchdowns. Trueira also received the prestigious Hal Chalmers Award as the top scholar/athlete in the NEFC.

This Week's Home Schedule

Wednesday, December 8
Swimming vs. Eastern Conn., 7:00

Thursday, December. 9
Men's Basketball vs. Albertus Magnus, 7:00

Saturday, December 11
Women's Basketball vs. Newbury, 1:00

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Matt Dissell (Quad Life) and Peter Appleby (Ballz Deep) for their fine showing in the 26th Annual 10K Road Race (James Bauacos Road Race). They each recieved 10 extra points for their IM team toward the Bauacos Cup! And yes - they really finished the race!

Great job, guys!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

COME VISIT THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE AND SEE WHAT TEAM YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NOW!

CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS ARE IN!

P.S. BE SURE TO BRING AN ID WITH YOU TO GET YOUR SHIRT

I would like to thank my IM staff for all their help with the National Field Hockey Tournament that took place here on November 18th - November 20th. ANOTHER GREAT JOB! THANK YOU!

Playoffs will begin in all sports, the week of Sunday, December 5th.

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the web-site:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!

If you are interested in any of the following, please call the IM office @ x5424

* Billiards @ Bentley Billards in downtown Westfield
* Field Hockey (women)
* La Crosse (men and women)
* Ice Hockey (women)
* Dodgeball (men and women)
* Futsal (men and woman)

We would like to get these going next semester!

Want an extra 10 Points toward the Banacos Cup for you team?

Sign up for the Hoop for Heart Tournament to be held on Tuesday, December 7th @ The Woodward Center from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

3 - 3 Basketball (Mixed Divisons)

DEEP THOUGHTS WITH JACK HANDY

"I guess I kinda lost control, because in the middle of the play I ran up and lit the evil puppet villain on fire. No, I didn't. Just kidding. I just said that to help illustrate one of the human emotions, which is freaking out. Another emotion is greed, as when you kill someone for money, or something like that. Another emotion is generosity, as when you pay someone double what he paid for his stupid puppet."

"To me, it's always a good idea to always carry two sacks of something when you walk around. That way, if anybody says, "Hey, can you give me a hand?," you can say, "Sorry, got these sacks."

"I hate it when people say somebody has a "speech impediment" even if he does, because it could hurt his feelings. So instead, I call it a "speech improvement", and I go up to the guy and say, "Hey, Bob, I like your speech improvement." I think this makes him feel better."

"I think somebody should come up with a way to breed a very large shrimp. That way, you could ride him, then after you camped at night, you could eat him. How about it, science?"

"Love can sweep you off your feet and carry you along in a way you've never known before. But the ride always ends, and you end up feeling lonely and bitter. Wait. It's not love I'm describing. I'm thinking of a monorail."

"What am I afraid of? I'll tell you: a feather, that's right, a feather. How could anyone be afraid of a feather, you say. That's an honest question, and I'll try to give it an honest answer. First of all, did I say it was a poison feather?"

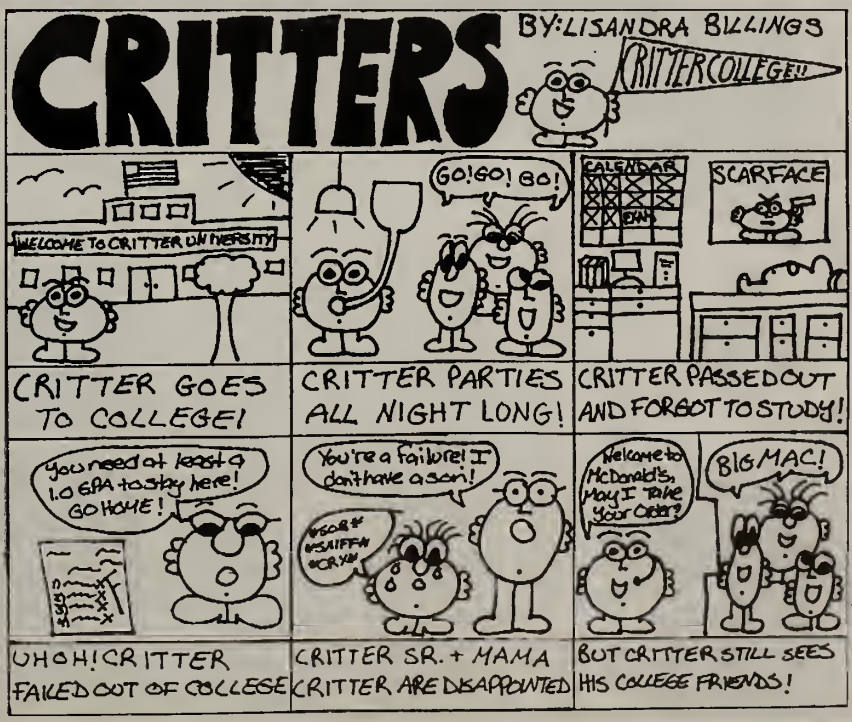
"Whenever I hear the sparrow chirping, watch the woodpecker chirp, catch a chirping trout, or listen to the sad howl of the chirp rat, I think: Oh boy! I'm going insane again."

"If any man says he hates war more than I do, he better have a knife, that's all I have to say."

"You know what's probably a good thing to hang on your porch in the summertime, to keep mosquitoes away from you and your guests? Just a big bag of blood."

"I think a good novel would be where a bunch of men on a ship are looking for a whale. They look and look, but you know what? They never find him. And you know why they never find him? It doesn't say. The book leaves it up to you, the reader, to decide. Then, at the very end, there's a page you can lick and it tastes like Kool-Aid."

For more of Jack Handy's Deep Thoughts go to: http://www.erikandanna.com/Humor/DeepThoughts/deep_thoughts_.htm



The Back Page – This Week at WSC

GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

WSC Athletics This Week

M. Basketball @ Albertus Magnus - 12/9

W. Basketball @ Rhode Island College - 12/9

W. Basketball @ Newberry - 12/11

Mon 12/6	American Red Cross Blood Drive - TWR - 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:30 p.m. & 6:30 to 9:45 p.m.	
Tue 12/7	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 6:30 to 9:45 p.m.	Fall Sports Banquet - SBH - 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	L.A.F.E. - TWR - 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Wed 12/8	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Swim Meet - WSC vs. Eastern CT - Ely Pool - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	CAB Coffeehouse - EML - 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Thurs 12/9	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m.		
Fri 12/10	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.		
Sat 12/11	Breakfast with Santa - Scanlon Banquet Hall - 9:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30 p.m. - Midnight	Sun 12/12	Rec Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

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We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Want to know who won "Say What?" pg. 9

National flu shot shortage affects campus. pg. 1

Photo by Mike Coughlin

Looking for great holiday gift ideas? pg. 12

Follow up story on WSC drug scene. pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | December 13, 2004 | Issue XIII

IT taking care of the virus problem

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

Imagine you're in your dorm room it's 11 p.m before your big research assignment is due. You click on the internet icon to search for that last piece of information needed to complete your paper and suddenly you realize the Internet is down.

For sophomore Lindsay Kushnet, this horror became a reality.

"I had a huge research report due for my Psychology class and the night before it was due the Internet went down," she said. "I would have gone to the library but it was already closed. I had to get up at 5:00 a.m. to finish the report on time."

Kushnet isn't the only WSC student who has experienced recent Internet difficulties. Sophomore Danielle Sosnowski said that a slow Internet connection has become routine.

"I've gotten used to not having the Internet anymore. It seems like every time I go to sign on to my AIM or check my e-mail it's always down or going really slow," she said. "It just seems like all the money my parents paid for the Internet use at school isn't going towards anything."

Dr. Steve Reynolds, Vice President & Chief Information Officer said that the Internet at school has never actually gone down this semester. Reynolds said that the problem actually lies in the student PC's that are so infected with viruses that they are taking the bandwidth from the rest of the student network.

"The problem is student's have viruses and they're killing each other," he said.

Reynolds said that he recognized the problem within the first few weeks of school but with 2,054 student PC's it was difficult to monitor each students computer and he also didn't want to invade a student's privacy.

"At the beginning of the year we would be watching the network, even from our homes after we left work for the day," he said. "If we saw a problem, we could determine which computer it was coming from, turn off that rooms Internet access and

Internet - pg. 3

Early payment option to help your housing chances

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Members of the classes of 2006 and 2007 have been given the choice to pay a preferred placement deposit to ensure a spot in what will be Westfield State's newest residential hall.

John Felio, Assistant Director of Residential Life, said the new residence hall is going to be, "the flagship of the state college system."

Students who pay the preferred placement deposit will not have to make another $150 payment for the room reservation deposit later in the year. "The preferred placement deposit replaces the traditional deposit," said Felio.

To ensure a March pick for a spot in the new residence hall all members of a roster must have their preferred placement deposits (PPD) postmarked by December 31 latest. If all members of an apartment roster do not have their PPD paid they will have to choose an apartment in April.

If you don't have a full

Deposit - pg. 2

Comfortable in her own skin

WSC student to go through plastic surgery over Winter Break

By Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

Part 1 of a series

**Editor's Note: All names have been changed.*

Nearly 8.3 million surgical and non-surgical cosmetic procedures were performed in 2003 in the United States.

From 2002 to 2003 there was a twenty percent increase in the total number of cosmetic procedures. Surgical procedures increased by twelve percent, and non-surgical procedures increased by 471 percent. The top five surgical cosmetic procedures in 2003 were liposuction (384,626, up three percent from 2002), breast augmentation (280,401, up twelve percent), eyelid surgery (267,627, up seventeen percent). People ages 35-50 had the most procedures, 3.7 million and 45 percent of the total. People ages 19-34 had 24 percent of procedures; ages 51-64 had 23 percent; age 65 and over had 5 percent; and age 18 and younger had less than 3 percent.

Jen*, a junior at Westfield State, will become one of those millions on December 28th.

After years of begging her parents for this procedure, she will be receiving full liposuction of the abdomen.

Jen carries a hoodie with her at all times. She refers to it as her "security blanket." She feels as though if she covers herself this way, no one will notice. She doesn't want anyone to see the protruding "gut" she has had since she was an adolescent. She doesn't know how the rest of the world sees her stomach, even though her boyfriend always makes it a point to tell her how cute it is. But to Jen, it's the biggest burden in her life. She stands about 5'7 with dark hair and soulful dark eyes. She's an attractive girl, but not in the conventional Hollywood way. She has her own style, her own look. She is certainly not cut from the same cookie cutter.

"Growing up I wanted to look like the thin blonde girls I went to middle school with. But now that I'm here, and see all these girls who look exactly the same, I'm glad I'm me. To an extent."

Jen was a tiny child who grew up in a small town in Western Massachusetts. Pictures of her when she was six show a gap-tooth grin and these large dark eyes surrounded by pink skin. Her knobby knees stick out from underneath her white sundress, covered with large pieces of fruit. Her boney arms are hugging herself, posing for the camera. Her older sister stands next to her.

"My parents always thought I had an eating disorder as a child. I was so picky when it came to

Surgery - pg. 3

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

The snow didn't stop these football players who tore it up during the second snowfall to hit Westfield State College this year.

Professors at WSC poorly compensated as compared to UMass

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

A report from the State House shows most state employees making six figures are University of Massachusetts professors. There are no Westfield State College professors making six figures.

The report said that of all state employees earning six figures, 86% of them are professors at UMass, earning on average $118,479.

Overall there are 115 professors at the state or community college level making over $100,000. There are 486 professors alone at the

Report - pg. 11

SGA gives families something to smile about for Christmas

By Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief

It's not too late for donations to the Student Government Association's (SGA) annual "All I Want for Christmas" fundraiser.

SGA was looking to raise $100 for each of the 15 families on the list or $1500 total. The fundraiser is for Westfield's Headstart program, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping families get back on track said Matt Curren, President of SGA.

"One mother asked for a toaster oven and a can opener," said Curren noting that many of the gifts are not toys but rather family necessities.

Curren said their main drive ended this past Friday and they were pleased to have exceeded their goal, raising over $1,700, but would accept donations until Wednesday December 15. Donations can be made in the SGA room located in the basement of Ely.

"Just giving every family $100 would be great," said Curren.

Last year the money raised for the fund was enough to fill 5 Wal-Mart shopping carts and provide gifts for 10 families in the Westfield area.

Curren said anyone is welcome to help with the fundraiser.

Letter's to the Editor address union problems

pg. 5

Christmas songs got you down? Us too. Find out the worst

Voices Overheard

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Deposit

roster Felio said you can still pay the PPD and be placed in an apartment. Many commuters are accustomed to living in an apartment said Felio and Residential Life is, "really hoping to accommodate some of these folks hoping to live on campus."

In addition to providing 409 students with apartment style living, the new hall will house the school convenience store on the ground floor.

The new hall will have many amenities that the existing halls don't; air conditioning, hardwood floors and elevators are among them.

The alcohol policy in the new apartments will be the same as the current apartments, where if all members are 21 or older the apartment will be coosidered "wet" and alcohol will be allowed. Felio said there will also be "dry" apartments.

There will also be apartments designated as "swing" apartments, where the apartment starts as dry and becomes wet when all members turn 21.

As for special living units, "we want to get a full year under our belts. We're going to see if there's a need for special living sections," said Felio.

The new hall will cost more than all other residences on campus. The current rate to live in an on-campus apartment is $2022, the new hall will cost $400 more for each semester, totaling $800 extra for the year.

"You can expect tuition and housing rates to go up every year," said Felio.

Next year Residential Life will be offering, "clustered living," said Felio. Clustered living is available in Davis and Dickinson halls where 4 rooms are clustered on either side of the bathrooms. Felio said students who choose the option are able to get together a group of friends and live in the same area.

"Really hoping to accomodate some of these folks hoping to live on campus."

John Felio
Assistant Director of Residential Life

Internet

send out guys to help the students get the virus off of their PC's."

Roommates Monique England and Courtney Murphy, sophomores of Dickinson Hall, are all too familiar with such a scenario.

"I woke up one morning and our Internet was off," Murphy said. "I figured the whole network was down so I just went to class but when I came back it still wasn't working. We didn't have Internet for three days and neither of us knew what was going on. Nobody called us or came to tell us that they had turned it off, it was like it just disappeared."

It was when Murphy and England went to the Information Technology group that they found out their Internet had been disconnected because England's computer was overrun with viruses.

"I knew that it had viruses on it but I didn't realize it would affect the rest of the network," said England. "It took my computer home that weekend and had all the viruses removed and they put the Internet back up right away."

In attempts to fix the problem, Reynolds said he went to Bridgewater, Framingham and Fitchburg State Colleges to see how they handled their student networks and was introduced to two products that could help avoid the Internet problems students were having at WSC.

The first product, a virus protection program from Norton, would serve as a protection agency against future virus threats to student computers.

"After bargaining with Norton, they agreed to sell us the product for only $1.10 per student per year," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said the money would be taken from the technology fees students already pay each year.

"These new programs will not cost the students any extra money," Reynolds said. "We found the money from fees already paid."

Reynolds said the program would be available for students as soon as they return from winter break and would easily be downloadable off of a web page provided by the College. He also said that students that already had virus protection programs and who did not wish to download the new program would be all set.

"If students already have a virus protection program that they prefer, that's fine," he said. "As long as every student has some sort of protection; it's in the better interest of all the students."

Reynolds said that finding the Norton program was "the easy part."

"With over 2,000 student computers on campus, do you think every student that didn't already have an anti-virus will download the new one?" he said. Chances are that some PC's will remain vulnerable.

In order to be sure that each student's PC had a virus protection program, Reynolds said that the college purchased a second piece of software, called Campus Manager.

"When a student comes back in January and turns on their computer to register, they'll come to the ResNet page where they have to log into the network," he said. "Before they are able to log onto the network, however, this new software will take a look at their computer (not their word documents, not their explorer history or music downloads) just to check to see that they have a protection program."

Reynolds said that if a student didn't have a program on their computer their browser would automatically take them a web page that provides a link and instructions and that will allow them to download the Norton program onto their computer.

Once a student has a protection program on their computer, Reynolds said the software will periodically check all student PC's to make sure each student's computer is virus free.

"If the software finds a virus the student will be taken off the network and another web-page will pop up on their PC providing them with links that will lead them to pages to fix the vulnerabilities on their computer," he said.

Reynolds said that the school paid extra money to have representatives from Campus Manager come onsite and set-up the software on January 3-5 so that the program can be tested and perfected before students return from winter break.

Until then, Reynolds suggests that students take advantage of the library and computer labs when Internet accessibility becomes a problem.

"I know the problem won't be completely fixed within the next two weeks, but we are committed to have it resolved before you return from Christmas break," he said.

From the Editor's Desk

At the Kid's Table

I don't dread the holidays like some people, I also don't embrace them with reckless abandon, like this one women I know. She has a designated "Christmas" room that houses a plastic tree, holiday lights and assorted decorations...year round. I could not make up something that silly.

Instead I try to look past the glitter of the season and see it for what it should be, a time to get together with family, this view is nice until I get home and realize my family is insane. That's when I turn to my friends. One of them recently proposed to his girlfriend on her birthday. I was in the office and got online for a moment, he IM'ed me saying he had popped the question on her birthday a few days before.

He caught her after she finished work and gave her the box with the ring, when she opened it he dropped to one knee and she said yes. This came as a surprise to me because his original plan had involved a fancy restaurant and a fire truck with all of his buddies from the department he volunteers for. I congratulated him and thought to myself, the way he actually proposed just seemed right. A perfect example of how the holidays should be, sometimes you don't need the fancy restaurant and fire truck to let those you love know it. It wasn't flashy or glitzy, it was simple and it was real, something we don't see enough of around the holidays.

You don't have to give someone a gift as momentous as a marriage proposal to make it feel like the holidays, maybe start small with a donation. Many charitable organizations rely on the generosity people seem to have around the holidays. Recently the Voice donated the sum of $200 to SGA's "All I Want for Christmas" fundraiser. This year their goal was to raise $1500 for Headstart, an organization that benefits needy families. I spoke with Matt Curren, President of SGA, he told me a lot of the families ask for things like winter coats and toaster ovens, things we take for granted. Lead by example I say, when I'm not face down in the gutter extremely hung over. I urge you to follow the paper's example and give something to those who need it.

There are charities for everything out there. You like Parrots? Make a donation to "Foster Parrots Ltd." Of Rockland MA, according to its website this organization is dedicated to improving the lives of the unwanted, neglected and abused parrots in the United States, by finding them good homes. For real, their website is www.fosterparrots.com. Not to say that saving parrots isn't a worthy cause, but you might feel more comfortable donating to a more established charity.

There are better-known charities like the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, just go online and google "charitable organizations" and you can find any number of organizations that might suit your taste. Just remember to give until it feels good, not until it hurts. With that have a fine and wonderful winter break and we look forward to another semester of whatever this school has to throw at us. Have a good holiday, as for me; I'll be at the end of the kid's table nursing a jug of eggnog. Happy Holidays!

Matthew Bernat
Co-Editor-In-Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Corrections:

The following corrections are for the December 6 issue of The Voice

-In the SGA article Kristine Miele's name was incorrectly spelled as "Mealy".

-In the same article Student Trustee Bob McDonald and President Matt Curren were quoted as saying they would not be attending regular meetings of the Student Affairs Committee. Curren and McDonald will not be attending regular meetings of the Student Advisory Council.

-In the Campus drug culture article it was stated that 'Sara' had become addicted to heroin when she smoked a joint laced with the drug, this is incorrect. Sara had snorted heroin without her knowledge but has never smoked it. She become addicted to synthetic heroin in the form of percocets, morphine and oxycontin.

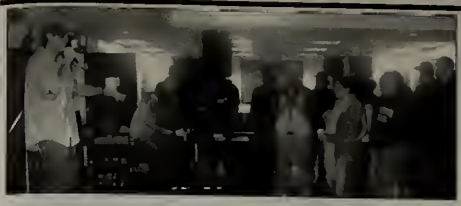

photo by- Amy Cirrone

At the final coffeehouse of the year Alex Napoleon freestyles to a receptive crowd. Napoleon has become one of the more popular attractions at the coffeehouse.

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Surgery

eating." No one in Jen's immediate family is overweight. She recalls being able to show off to her family the fact that she could suck in and grab underneath her ribs. She remained skin and bones until she reached the 8th grade.

"And then puberty hit me like a ton of bricks."

Within a year, Jen had gained a considerable amount of weight, close to fifty pounds.

"It happened so quickly that I didn't notice it until it was too late. My eating habits only changed somewhat, upping my intake on fattening foods and plus I was growing all over anyway." Jen's weight gain continued until late in her high school career.

> **"I knew it was unfixable. I wanted to kick myself for wasting so much time doing those damn crunches."**
>
> **- "Jen"**

At her heaviest, Jen weighed about 220 pounds at 5'6". This was during her junior year of high school.

"Those were my dark days."

Over Christmas break 2000, she decided that she was tired of being heavy. She started a strict diet and exercise regimen, which required lots of salad and working out at a local gym five times a week. After seven months, she lost 65 pounds and never felt better.

"My self-confidence skyrocketed. Boys started noticing me and I could wear clothes that I never dreamed of." Jen went from a size 16-18 to a size 10-11. Her stomach had shrunk some, but it never fully disappeared like she had hoped.

"I did crunches until I thought I'd die."

Her stomach has remained her problem area all this time. She remembers mentioning to her mother that she wanted the surgery at age sixteen. At first, her mother told her there was no way she was going to pay to have Jen be "fixed" surgically. The matter was dropped for several years after that, until late August.

Jen's mother happened to be watching a local medical show on News 22 called "Doctor's On Call." This particular episode featured plastic surgeons from around Massachusetts, including Doctor Gary E. Russolillo, a western Massachusetts resident who had taken over his father's practice thirty years ago. Jen was cleaning her room when her mother poked her head in.

"She told me she saw this doctor on TV and said if I wanted to make a consultation with him about my stomach, that she'd be willing to go through with it. I was shocked and immediately excited." Jen called the office the next day and made the appointment for September 16th.

Jen's mother took her to visit the doctor. She met her in the back parking lot of the large white building and walked her to the front. The office is a full-service cosmetic and clinical skin care facility. Russolillo proclaims his work to be cosmetic plastic surgery and clinical skin care with a "Physician's Philosophy." Besides liposuction, Russolillo performs other kinds of surgery, including face, brow and eye lifts, lip enhancement (Dermalogen), breast augmentation, nasal surgery, abdominoplasty and cosmetic tattooing.

The office is located in downtown Westfield. Upon entering, you're greeted by a warm, home-like environment. A mural that takes up the whole wall hangs in the waiting room, an old fashioned portrait of a woman in an white bonnet. Several pamphlets and magazines were spread around the room. Jen sat in an over-stuffed rose-colored chair and waited for her appointment.

"I was looking forward to hearing what the doctor had to say. But I was sort of embarrassed. I knew he was going to have to look at my stomach."

Jen's mother began looking through the Botox pamphlets and proclaimed how ridiculous that kind of procedure was. After about fifteen minutes, a nurse with dark curly hair escorted Jen and her mother into a small room.

The nurse had asked her to take off her pants and socks so the doctor could examine her stomach. She sat covered by a paper cloak while her mother sat nearby. Shortly there after, the doctor came in, followed by one of his secretaries baring a manila folder and a notebook. He looked very distinguished; a crop of gray covered his round head. Clean shaven and tan, his blue eyes smiled at Jen.

"Hello young lady, I'm Doctor Russolillo." Jen shook his hand. The doctor then asked her to describe the reasons she was there. She told him the story of her weight loss to which he replied "Wow, congratulations!" The doctor listened intently, nodding, while the secretary in a red dress suit with skinny legs jotted notes.

"I told them both that I was not naïve when it came to my surgery expectations. I knew that I wouldn't come out of the hospital having Britney Spears' body. I knew that if I wanted to eventually get that way, I'd have to work out and diet more."

The doctor then told Jen an interesting fact about her diet and exercise routine. He said the real trick to keeping off the pounds is only watching what you eat. Exercise doesn't necessarily make a person thinner, but it does help in muscle toning. If a person has a low-calorie diet, there's no reason they should be overweight, he said.

"Okay, let's see what we're dealing with here," said the doctor.

Jen sheepishly opened her cloak and revealed herself to the doctor. Russolillo slid back a little on his short stool.

"Oh my goodness."

Jen stared at him, wondering what he was so appalled at.

"That's the biggest stomach I have ever seen!" he said smiling, then winked.

"I'm sure he's seen a lot bigger than me in his thirty years of practice, so I knew to take his joke."

From then on, the appointment went smoothly. The doctor poked and prodded at Jen's stomach. He then explained that he would use a new technique that electronically pumps out the fat. This technique includes an electronic cannula, which makes its way through the fat and sucks it out, without hand pumping. This creates less risk of injury and mistakes.

"He basically pulled my stomach clean off while examining. I was sure by the time he was done." Jen said that he said she was a small girl, naturally. Also that diet and exercise would not take care of her stomach. He explained that because of her rapid weight gain and loss when she was younger, the band of stomach muscle that runs from hip to hip below the belly button had completely lost its elasticity. This was interesting news to Jen.

"I knew it was unfixable. I wanted to kick myself for wasting so much time doing those damn crunches."

Jen's mother began to ask to few motherly questions.

Surgery - pg. 11

Voice of the Week

Jill Easttey

Role at WSC: Residents Director of Courtney Hall and Assistant Director of new student orientation.

Years spent at WSC: 4 years working and 8 years all together.

Favorite thing about her job: The students and everything about them.

Favorite movie: Serendipity

Favorite TV Show: West Wing

Favorite quote: "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction." - Antion de Saint Exupery

How she got into her career: After graduating, she didn't know what she wanted to do so she decided to take the grad assistant position and somehow ended up in Res-life. "I fell into it," Jill says.

Advice: "Take care of yourselves and others."

Voices Overheard

What Christmas songs make you cringe?

Carolin Collins
Class of 2008
Art
Leah Kaplan
Class of 2008
English

"That God-awful Mariah Carey song. And anything by Jessica Simpson."

Nick Combs
Class of 2007
Theater

"Christmas Shoes."

Sarah Bordonaro
Graduating In December
English & Education

"Dominic the Donkey."

Mike Hamel
Class of 2005
Economics & Politic Science

"Any N*SYNC Christmas song."

Voices Overheard is compiled by: Cliff Ashbrook & Amy Cirrone. Cliff and Amy have a master plan to watch you while you sleep.

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Library Reminder

All library books must be returned and any overdue fines paid before the end of the Fall semester. Failure to do so will result in additional fines during the break. Outstanding fines could obstruct registration for class next semester. Please stop at the circulation desk in the library if you have any questions regarding your loans or fines. Or call x5231.

For your convenience, the library will be open until midnight Dec. 13 - 16.

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

I have been reading with interest your series concerning the drug culture at Westfield State College. It is important to realize the real life implications that drugs have on individuals, especially in a college setting. It is important to note that alcohol and drug abuse is a disease, not a recreational pursuit. I have known intelligent and promising students who have had to leave college because of their substance abuse. Your articles have mentioned similar individuals.

It should be noted that the College offers a wide variety of services to help students who may have addiction problems through the Counseling Center, Health Services, and Residential Life. These services are confidential and will provide assistance and referral either on or off-campus to help students. It is important that students not wait too long if they are experiencing difficulties before they receive counseling.

Please contact any of these offices if you need assistance. You will find someone who is able and willing to provide guidance to you.

- Dr. Arthur R. Jackson
Vice President for Student Affairs

-

To the Editors:

I read Mr. McDonald's column "A response to the neutrality decision." There is a critical inaccuracy that I must point out. The author states, "the rumor that faculty do not have any contracts (sic) is a misnomer." The faculty DO NOT have a contract. Our last contract expired on June 30, 2003. There is NO binding contract just an agreement by the parties to continue to use the language of the last contract to help guide us. Without this agreement the college could not operate. But this is not a contract. None of the financial components of this expired contract have been extended, only the language.

Be quite clear, if the faculty valued their commitments to the students as little as Mr. McDonald suggests many of us do then we would be on strike. In industry the expiration of a contract is immediately followed by a strike. We're still here, trying to effectively contribute to this college despite the toll it takes on our professional careers.

Perspective is everything. Mr. McDonald gave his opinion about the resolution. Mine, which I sent to SGA yesterday, is written below. If you are interested in communication you might give me or some of the other dedicated faculty that have been hurt by the SGA's decision some space to respond:

I have read your resolution. Quite frankly, I find it disgusting. I am offended and have been in year's past when SGA have approved similar resolutions. I could say a lot, but I will just provide you with a few bits of information.

1. You state "This stance of neutrality shall not be construed as a failure to support but rather as a reinforcement of the separation between the interests of students and those of faculty, staff, and administrators." Where did you dream up this separation between the interests of students and those of faculty? Our SOLE purpose here is to help enable students to learn. We have, and will continue, to do everything we can to help this be a "people's college" where students can come to learn. We are actively involved in many controversial issues that have a direct impact on students. One of these is the number of faculty, the number of adjunct faculty, and the increasing number of students here. We are fighting desperately to keep class sizes reasonable despite the increasing student enrollment and decreasing state funding. Where's the separation here? Students will directly benefit from our efforts to insure quality education. Indeed, the quality of the education that each of the current senators' receives is a direct result of the struggle of faculty members to insure appropriate staffing and class size adjustments. And we have been fighting this good fight for years - me for eleven years now, many here for all of your young lives. All this to insure that when you arrived here you had the best education that we could give you. In response you couldn't even give us verbal support? Even the President - who is negotiating across from us - has publicly said that our salaries are appalling and that the state refusing to honor the APA/AFSCME contracts are disgusting. Hiding behind some nonexistent "separation" and not even saying something like this is cowardly.

2. You state "Another claim has been that the Student Government Association was directed by the senior administration of the college to maintain a stance of neutrality. This is also false." Don't act so innocent to this claim. In fact, you say "A stance of neutrality is representative of the organization's past practices." Exactly!!! And this stance was something that was jammed down your throat by the administration during the last contract "negotiation" before any of you were students here. It is the fruit of the poisoned tree - you should take no solace in it. You were told what to do, if not directly then as a poisoned legacy of other SGA leaders who did not have the courage or integrity to stand up for what was right.

3. Personally I find your stance insulting. I have done a tremendous amount for students on this campus and students organizations during my years here. I am insulted enough that this commonwealth treats me as they do. It is remarkably discouraging to be treated that way by the students you serve as well. I have long championed the students above all else. Indeed, I have gotten in a great deal of trouble by arguing that during difficult times like these that we not do things to hurt students. I always thought that resigning from student clubs, withholding grades, boycotting commencement, and the like hurt the students not the people we were negotiating with. But if even SGA doesn't care about my status and that of roy sisters and brothers in APA and AFSCME, maybe I will have to reconsider. Maybe I will have to worry more about myself and my family. But then again, doing this would be selfish and would violate the ethical standard I hold my career to.

We never asked for you to picket with us. But some sign of support might have helped our morale or our commitment to this college. Instead, the resolution you passed insults us. You should be ashamed.

- Julian F. Heron
Ph.D. Professor of Mathematics

To the Editors:

I just finished reading Bob McDonald's editorial in the December 6 edition of the Voice and I would like to clarify some of his comments.

1. Mr. McDonald states that faculty have "...walked away from governance." This is false. During the last negotiations the faculty union (MSCA) agreed to continue participating in governance during this set of negotiations and in turn the Board of Higher Education (BHE) agreed to pay promotion raises during the negotiations. In addition, the Council of Presidents is proposing to change the structure of governance in such a way that faculty participation in the future may be reduced. The MSCA is opposed to this and wants to continue to be involved in governance.

2. Mr. McDonald states that faculty are reducing office hours. This may be true. The contract requires that we hold three office hours a week and so some faculty may be reducing their office hours to the contractual requirement. This is because we have decided to "work to rule." We do not have many ways to demonstrate our frustration and our importance to the college except by showing the BHE how much of what we do is beyond the contract. However, this is not to be viewed as punishing students. In fact we are as available as we have ever been. If the new office hours are inconvenient for you, make an appointment. Your professor will be happy to set up a time to meet with you outside of office hours.

3. Mr. McDonald states that "the rumor that the faculty do not have a contract is a misnomer." This is not a rumor. The last contract expired on June 30, 2003. Now the MSCA and the BHE did agree that the contract would continue in full force after June 30th. However, this is an agreement of convenience because it just refers to the language that keeps the college running; otherwise there would be a complete breakdown on the campuses. In particular, the monetary language does not continue. In fact, were it not for the above mentioned agreement to continue governance in exchange for promotion raises, the BHE would not be obligated to pay those raises. So we really do not have a contract.

4. Mr. McDonald states that faculty are threatening not to overload classes. This is true, but this is a battle that goes beyond contract issues and should be supported by the students. We are concerned by the increasing class sizes and their effects on our ability to teach effectively. In a recent letter to the faculty, the union states,

"Many of our students come to WSC because they are drawn to its small class sizes and the personal relationships they can form with their professors. Yet with each overload you accept you are necessarily reducing the amount of individual attention you will be giving to your students. You are also increasing the workload in each class and this reduces the amount of time you can devote to preparing your classes. ...[W]hen you accept overloads, you allow the administration to perpetuate the sham that we do not need significantly more full-time faculty. Even though the current MSCA contract allows a department to use adjuncts in no more than 15% of it sections each semester, the administration routinely asks departments to either overload classes or violate this limit. They realize that most faculty will expand class size as necessary to accommodate increased student enrollment demands. With a new dorm nearing completion and enrollment likely to increase, this sets a dangerous precedent. This campus desperately needs new faculty; please do not give the administration any more reason to ignore this problem."

I am sorry that Mr. McDonald believes that the faculty's actions are punishing the students. Many of us in the union are taking these stances because we are afraid that if we do not stand up to the BHE and the Governor the quality of education at Westfield State and the other state colleges and universities will suffer and the academic opportunities that these schools provide will vanish.

- Philip K. Hotchkis
Associate Professor of Mathemati

The Voice

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PUBLICATION POLICY

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Letters to the Editors (cont.)

To the Editors:

The SGA's resolution of neutrality in their faculty and their librarians' contractual struggle disappoints many of us. Only very short-sighted students can delude themselves into thinking that they are not being hurt by the Board of Higher Education's positions both now and when they look for employment.

Bob McDonald's December 6 opinion article defending SGA inaction wrongly suggests that faculty and librarians put their own interests above students. He asks a good question but gets the answer dead wrong. If faculty ever did decide to disregard student interests, the campus would be in chaos. Our careers would be meaningless if we were not helpful, understanding, and supportive of students.

In many union meetings discussing many problems over many years, I have never heard anyone disregard students. Student interests are always discussed and protected. In fact, the union has shown great restraint in selecting actions precisely to avoid hurting students.

To take overloading as an example, while one student may be inconvenienced by not being able to overload a class, every student properly registered in that class benefits, because class size really does matter. Overloading also encourages the administration to continue to fail to hire enough full time instructors, which is the major reason so many students need overloads in the first place.

A student government should actively protect its college's reputation, if only out of self-interest as future job seekers. Westfield's reputation can and surely will decline if we continue to find it increasingly hard to hire good new faculty. Not all potential hires are willing to work for considerably less just in order to live in this region. Very few would want to work at a campus under the onerous conditions proposed by the Board of Higher Education.

The SGA has timidly declined to acknowledge the obvious, that there might be something wrong with paying their faculty 20% less than the national average. It has also timidly declined to address the Board's specific policy proposals despite their own brave claim, in the same resolution, that they should articulate a position on pressing issues.

Despite this failure to do what they say they should do, they are even more timid in trying to avoid responsibility for their inaction. The campus community is told not to construe SGA's failure to support us as a failure to support us! Say what they will, only one construal is possible. The SGA has decided not to support us.

Nevertheless I would like to thank the 13 SGA members who voted against the resolution, and thank the myriad other students on campus who understand that students and faculty are on the same side, ultimately with the same goals and the same interests. I hope that the 45 students who voted for the resolution come eventually to understand who their real friends are.

- Stephen Sossaman
Department of English

To the Editors:
Dear Students,

As you may have heard, many faculty members are turning down requests for overloads. We would like to take this opportunity to explain why. Most classes are full and increasing the class size will limit our effectiveness as an instructor. Unfortunately, this is a problem that is occurring all over campus and the answer is not to simply increase class size. The problem is much more complex than that. We urge you to contact Academic Affairs and the President's Office and ask them to address this situation. Here is some information for you to consider when talking to someone in the administration:

According to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, (NEASC) Accreditation Report which we submitted in 2002, in order to be an accredited institution are:

Composition courses, with intensive demands on instructor time for effective learning, are typically capped at a 20-22 student limit on enrollment. Studio and laboratory course limits are commonly 16-20, reflecting resource-based limits set with faculty advice. Survey and lecture courses requiring different instructional modes and less writing are offered to somewhat larger classes. Upper-division major sections are set at 25-35 students.

However, as you probably have noticed, this is not quite the case in many courses. This campus is severely understaffed, and as a result, class sizes are larger than they should be. In fact, limits on class sizes in many departments have been raised over the last few semesters. Larger classes limit our ability to effectively work with our students and give them the individual attention they deserve and we advertise. When we accept overloads we are increasing the workload in each class and this reduces the amount of time we can devote to preparing class. We also allow the administration to perpetuate the sham that we do not need significantly more full-time faculty. Even though the current MSCA contract allows a department to use adjuncts in no more than 15% of it sections each semester, the administration routinely asks departments to either overload classes or violate this limit. They realize that most faculty will expand class size as necessary to accommodate increased student enrollment demands. With a new dorm nearing completion and plans to increase enrollment, this sets a dangerous precedent. This campus desperately needs new full-time tenure track faculty. For example, in 1988, the college had 3043 full-time students and 169 full-time faculty; while this year we have approximately 3700 full-time students and about 175 full-time faculty. That is an increase of about 21.5% in the number of students while the faculty size has only increased by about 3.5%. The administration cannot continue to ignore this problem and allow the growth in the number of students to outstrip the growth in full-time tenured faculty without damaging the educational opportunities here.

In addition, faculty at all State Colleges are currently entering their second consecutive year without a contract. According to a study commissioned by the College Presidents, faculty are underpaid by about 20% as compared to our peers. Yet the Board of Higher Education (BHE), with whom we negotiate, has refused to address this inequity, in fact their current offer is a 1% pay increase in each of the next three years. If we take on more students in our classes we are allowing the administration to continue to believe that despite the pay disparity we will do any extra work asked of us without any further compensation.

We realize this action may cause you some hardship, however it is a proactive stance we believe we must take to improve the educational opportunities here and remind the administration that we refuse to sacrifice our academic integrity for the financial convenience of the administration.

- The Action Committee for
the Westfield Chapter of the MSCA

Heed the weed

"THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GEORGE"
BY BILL GEORGE
VOICE COLUMNIST

Marijuana. Grass. Weed. Pot. No matter what you call it, it is illegal. And I would have liked to write about something more sophisticated and important this week, but I feel a need to address the issues surrounding this drug. Frankly there should not be any issues at all. It's an illegal drug. You are not supposed to possess it, so don't. That's it. Move on with your life. You don't need it. It's that simple, believe it or not. If you really have such little self-control that you feel the need to smoke something that you are not supposed to ... Well, that is one sad state of affairs. (Not just sad, but also stupid: The National Institute on Drug Abuse says marijuana puts four times as much tar in your lungs as a filtered cigarette. Also, within an hour of smoking it, a person is five times more likely to have a heart attack).

In any event, I cannot stay silent any longer regarding the ridiculous notion that is sweeping the campus (and sadly portions of the country as well) that we should legalize and decriminalize the possession of marijuana. It's merely a pathetic attempt by criminals to get out of trouble for doing something they are not supposed to be doing. And yes, 'criminal' is the right term to use for a person who smokes marijuana; I'm not going to sugar coat it. They are committing a crime, are they not?

First of all let's tackle the defense for legalizing marijuana, "People use it now even though it is illegal and will continue to do so regardless of the law. So we might as well make it legal and tax it." Okay, we'll get to the tax issue in a second. Let me address the notion that everyone is going to do it anyway.

It's true. Regardless of the law people do smoke weed and will continue to do so. Similarly, come to think of it, there are thousands of rapes every year. People seem to continue to rape regardless of the statutes forbidding it. Let's go ahead and legalize rape. I mean why not? People are committing the crime of rape and will continue to do so regardless of the law. Just like marijuana. What makes pot so special that if enough people do it the law should be changed?

We cannot simply give in to criminal's wishes by overturning a law simply because an indeterminable number of people break it often enough. What kind of precedent does that set for the future? What kind of message does that send about our criminal justice system? It's like when kids say, "If we all do terribly on the test, the teacher has to scale it." But as I'm sure most of you know, that does not usually happen.

Also, the law does have an affect on some. There are plenty of people who do not smoke marijuana because it is illegal. It does not stop everyone, but it does stop some. In addition, marijuana is a gateway drug and many people move on to try harder, more dangerous drugs after using marijuana. This, again, is not true with everyone, but with many. In fact, NIDA studies show that someone who smokes marijuana is 104% more likely to try cocaine than someone who never did marijuana.

Now, let's pretend that marijuana is now legal for tax purposes. What does that do? Well, it removes the obstacle blocking some people from smoking in the first place by eliminating the law, so now they have no restraint and have no reason not to smoke weed. So they do so. What if these people move on to harder substances since we already established marijuana is a gateway drug? Now you have people who would not have touched any drugs in the first place, who have been led down a dangerous path to possible addiction. Once legalized, the base of use would be expanded for marijuana resulting in the expansion of the user base of other drugs as well. These people would not fear the law anymore while moving on to cocaine and heroin because they know that if people whine enough it will be legalized eventually.

What you have is more people ruining their lives, or worse, losing their lives to these harder drugs or to car accidents involving high drivers. To quote NIDA once again, "Reaction time for motor skills, such as driving, is reduced by 41% after smoking 1 joint and is reduced 63% after smoking 2 joints." I don't want to be driving down the street at night knowing that any car on the road could have a driver high on a now legal substance. Accidents would cause lives to be lost left and right and all under the approval of our government. What's it all for? Taxes and money. I personally value human life over money, but I guess that's me.

So to all you liberty loving people, who think you are being progressive and clever and solving the national deficit by saying we should legalize an illegal drug, think again. Things are illegal for a reason. Laws are in place with a purpose in mind. Believe it or not, the government isn't after you and your ability to have fun. (As much as you'd like to believe that so you could feel significant and go on this outrageous crusade). The reason for these laws is to make society and life as we know it better and safer. Think about a world where everyone obeyed the law and you'll realize what I'm talking about. So think about that (for once) instead of yourself next time you light up a joint.

Arts & Entertainment

Fashion faux pas: what not to do

THE FASHION FILES

WITH LISANDRA BILLINGS

Recently several concerned students have approached me and asked me to address a few of the tacky fashion trends they've seen brewing around the campus. So read up before you find yourself a victim of one of the following fashion faux pas…

1) Short pants + chunky boots = ugly:
-While I wouldn't exactly call this a trend, it has got to be the most annoying fashion mistake since people thought it was okay to wear socks with sandals. Before buying your boots or pants ask yourself these questions: Are these pants long enough to cover the chunky heels of my boots? OR are these boots too high or chunky to fit comfortably under my pants? Taking these two simple things into consideration could save you from being that girl who shows 2 inches of ugly leather sole before you hit the hem of the pants. The hem of your pants should just reach the ground, not long enough so you have to walk on them, but just long enough to cover up your heel. The only part of your boot that should really be showing is the toe, and even that should be covered appropriately so it doesn't look like you're walking on boxes that you've painted black.

2) Pink Red Sox memorabilia:
-Last time I checked the Red Sox colors were red and blue, which is why it shocks me to see girls waltzing around with their pink Red Sox hats and T-shirts. What's the point in flaunting a team name if you're not even showing off the right colors? Personally, nothing says, "I'm a fair-whether fan" like a pink Red Sox hat.

3) Hair ribbons: better left to the 5th graders:
-For some unknown reason, it has recently become cool to tie a pretty little ribbon around your ponytail. Funny, I was under the impression that once we came to college our mothers stopped dressing us. Unless you're a cheerleader, I really see no point in tying ribbons to your hair, either way you're going to lose. Tying the ribbon in a bow really does make you look five and letting the ribbon hang loosely against your ponytail makes the rest of your hair look flat. While there is no way to tie a ribbon around your ponytail and make it look remotely alright, there are ways around this so don't throw your ribbons away just yet. Think Jennifer Garner in 13 Going on 30, instead of tying it into your hair, try wearing the ribbon (or a hair scarf) like a headband, wrapped around your head. This approach looks fine with long hair, short hair, bangs or no bangs and you won't run the risk of people mistaking you for a Juniper Park student anymore.

4) Pairing skirts with jeans
-I know that it's cold out and girls don't want to have to back away their cute summer skirts, but instead of wearing your jeans underneath them, try pairing a skirt with a nice warm pair of tights ur leg warmers. Both have come back this season in full force and are perfectly acceptable options that not only keep your legs toasty warm but also look much better than baggy blue jeans.

5) A lesson in the art of wearing the Ugg:
-I have seriously never been able to understand how such large, ugly boots ever became stylish but I'm not one to argue with fashion. While I would personally not be caught dead in these boots, I can understand those of you who feel the need to wear them and can even give credit to those who are able to pull off this tacky trend. However, there are some people who need to learn the correct use of the Ugg. If you wear the Ugg with jeans, try straight legged so it is easier to squish the pant legs into the Ugg. Never try to wear flares over the boots or simply let your pants clump up around the top of them because it just makes you look sloppy. Uggs with skirts are all right and sometimes even cute, but not if the color of your Uggs matches the color of your skirt. First, I personally think that any color other than khaki on an Ugg is not necessary, but if you do choose to purchase baby blue Uggs, don't pair them with a baby blue skirt.

SGA neutrality from the eyes of an insider

"DEVIL'S ADVOCATE"
BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

On Tuesday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m. the Student Government Association held one of their weekly meetings. I joined the SGA toward the beginning of the semester with the hopes of creating some sort of profound change. Unfortunately, as I found out, the SGA isn't all that big on change. While I recognize and commend the things we have done so far this semester, I feel that certain issues need to be readdressed. The major issue that I feel should be readdressed is that of the stance of neutrality SGA decided to take with regards to the faculty negotiations.

Many of the senators stated repeatedly that they supported the decision of the SGA, citing that while they represent many people around the school, they do not feel that they should be able to make a statement on the negotiations to speak for their constituents. In my opinion, this is a complete cop-out from our responsibilities as elected officials. Not only did our group decide to take the position of neutrality as a whole, we wrote into the proposition something that forbids us from making statements on the negotiations with our attached titles.

It is important that you, the reader of this column and a student of Westfield State College learn as much as you can about the issue at hand and express whatever your concerns are with the issue to your elected officials. We represent you and it is hard to do so without knowing exactly what it is that you think. Perhaps this issue means nothing to you, but keep in mind that when the faculty suffers, we suffer.

I noticed the connection between the faculty and the students tonight at our meeting. Part of our reasoning for passing a stance of neutrality is that we as an organization feel that we should stick to issues concerning students. However, during the day of outrage back in the beginning of the semester, I did some talking with different faculty members and realized that the negotiations being brought to an end in favor of the MSCA is to the benefit of the student body. No more class overloads, no more teachers hosting special events, and soon, we could have teachers refusing to be faculty advisors for different organizations.

Therefore, the reasons we have for not taking a stance on the negotiations are pretty much shot to hell.

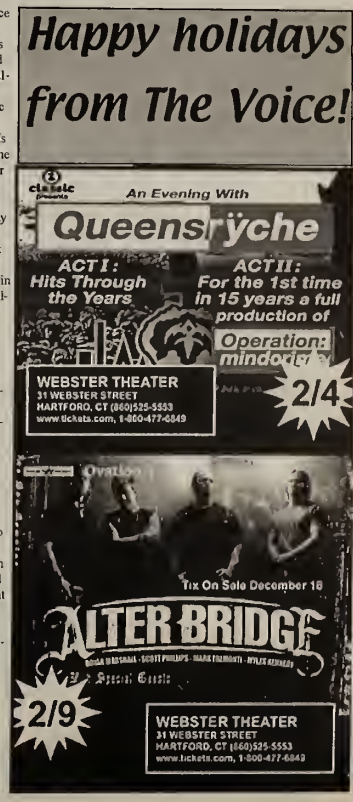
It is my job, as it is with all elected officials to represent those people who put me into office and now that we have passed our new resolution, my ability to represent these people has been taken away, regardless what they may feel. I honestly do feel like I am ducking and hiding from the responsibility I have as a senator in the SGA. This choice however is not solely mine to make, which is why I urge you, the reader to speak out and voice your opinion, whatever it may be.

As for SGA, I urge my fellow senators to rethink their positions. I heard many of you try to say that a stance of neutrality does not indicate a lack of support for the faculty unions. However, if we break down the three possibilities that SGA was presented with, we will realize that a stance of neutrality does in fact, indicate that the SGA does not support the faculty in their negotiations. We could have a) supported the faculty unions; b) stayed neutral, therefore not supporting the faculty unions; or c) supported the Board of higher education, also not supporting the faculty unions. Therefore, by the process of elimination, we should realize that we did decide not to support the faculty unions. As one of the MSCA representatives put it, for a deliberative body to vote without getting information is a shock.

It is too late to reverse the course of action we have already taken, but it is not too late for the student populace and the senators alike to find information regarding the faculty negotiations. This is what we need to do. Frankly, it is rather sad that we spent all of our valuable time to make the decision to stay neutral. The faculty and therefore, the students need the help of the student body that they depend on to make executive decisions for them. If they wanted to be represented as having pretty much no opinion at all I am sure they would not have needed help.

Speaking of which, why don't we poll the students on campus, since they are the ones we represent? Are we afraid to take a stand? Whatever the case may be, we are taking a lot of flack, senators. We need to make up our damn minds. Thanks.

Merry Christmas Mommy!! I love you!



No rhyme or reason

"This Owl's Howl"
By John Desenches
Sports Columnist

I've decided to go in a different direction this week. I think you'll enjoy it. Instead of talking about one specific topic I am going to introduce a multitude of issues. Here we go...

• The BCS: Also known as the Big Corporate Scam. Can somebody explain to me how division 1-AA can have a playoff system, but division 1-A can't? If division 1-AA student-athletes can handle their academics, so can division 1-A student-athletes. If time is a concern then start the season earlier and/or lower the amount of games a team is allowed to play. A playoff system is the best way to go and would provide a true national champion. Fans love the idea of a playoff system, but in the end it comes down to money. Conferences and individual schools make more money because of the Bowl system. The higher-ups don't care about what the fans want, or what the players want. I'm sure Auburn is thrilled with the BCS right now...

• College firings: Since when did college athletics only revolve around wins and losses? I don't see how Florida and Notre Dame can justify firing Ron Zook and Tyrone Willingham, respectively. Zook was 23-14 in his three seasons at Florida. Willingharn was 21-15 at Notre Dame over the same time period. Florida might play in the toughest conference in the country, and Notre Dame always plays a grueling schedule. These two men appeared to be good guys as well. You can't let them implement their system and at least allow them to see their first recruiting class through? David Cutcliffe was fired by Mississippi because he had a losing season. It was his first losing season as the head coach in five years. He brought his team to the Cotton Bowl last year, lost Eli Manning to graduation and understandably had a rebuilding season. Let me remind you that Ole Miss doesn't exactly have the reputation of being a college football power. I just don't get it.

• As much as it pains me to say this, congratulations to legendary Boston University hockey coach Jack Parker. He won his 700th career game recently against archrival Boston College.

• Steroids? I don't care about this controversy one bit (yes I know I am addressing it). If Major League Baseball cared so much they would have implemented stronger policies against steroid use in the last collective bargaining agreement. If they don't care, why should I? Every time I hear about this issue I quickly change the channel.

• How about them Patriots? Just look at their versatility in the win against Cleveland. They scored on defense, special teams, on the ground, and through the air. I know Cleveland is terrible, but that is impressive.

• I'd like to make an analogy. The Celtics are to defense as Baghdad Bob was to the truth. This team is very exciting to watch, but they can't stop ANYBODY!

• *crickets* Apparently they are the only thing being heard at the NFL negotiations

• Notre Dame should hire Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis. He is a Notre Dame graduate and is one of the few guys that actually want the job. He is a proven winner, and learning from Bill Belichick can only be a good thing. In case Domer's haven't realized it yet, the Notre Dame job is no longer a highly sought after position. That would change if administrators agreed to lower the academic standards in South Bend...

• Another complaint about the BCS: Why can't we have the most deserving teams in it? USC-Oklahoma is fine and so is Auburn-Virginia Tech, but Michigan-Texas in the Rose Bowl? Are you kidding me? Pittsburgh is not deserving of a BCS bid, and Boston College wouldn't have deserved the bid had they won the Big East. The most attractive games would have been: Michigan-California in the Rose Bowl (tradition), and Utah-Texas in the Fiesta Bowl. I think fans would rather see an unbeaten Utah team go against their toughest competition of the season. That competition would have been Texas.

• Let's just end it with another black eye for college athletics. USC athletic director, Mike Garrett, fired basketball coach Henry Bibby recently. The Trojans were 2-2 and one of those losses came against a loaded North Carolina team. Bibby led USC to the elite eight in 2001, but has struggled since. If there is more to this story than wins and losses that is one thing, but if there isn't, I have a problem with this. Why didn't Garrett just fire Bibby after last season? Firing a coach after four games is ridiculous.

URBAN EDUCATION
GOSPEL CHOIR
1st Annual

Musical

INSPIRATION

FEST

Tuesday, December 14, 2004
5:00-8:00 pm
Scanlon Banquet Hall

The U.E.G.C. would like to invite you, your family, and friends to come out and have a night of fine dining and music in celebration of the holidays and positive energy. [Come early-limited seating]
A $2.00 donation is optional

~~~~~
Visit the Webster Theatre Online at www.websterthe-atre.com
~~~~~

The four 4-year members of the Westfield State field hockey team were honored at the Westfield State College fall sports banquet last Tuesday. From left to right, are: Kendra Newell, head coach Heather Cabral, Maryann Kinney, Laura Scott, President Vicky Carwein, and Sadie Driscoll. The field hockey team captured the conference championship and Cabral was named the conference Coach of the Year. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Westfield Women Also Fall In OT

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Freshman forward Matia Kostakis (Andover, MA) had 23 points and 16 rebounds while junior center Katie Latham contributed 12 points and 12 rebounds as Amherst College held on for a 76-72 overtime win over Westfield State College in the opening round of the Pioneer Valley Women's Hoop Classic.

Junior guard Meghan McCarthy (Belchertown, MA) scored 19 points as Westfield State (2-2) had four players scoring in double figures. Junior forward Amanda Chapin (Westfield, MA) had a double double with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Sophomore forward Kristen Strole (Agawam, MA) had 14 points while freshman guard Kyana Zavala (Springfield, MA) had 11 points.

Westfield had a chance to win the game in regulation when with 2/10ths of a second remaining McCarthy made the first free throw to tie the game at 66-66 before missing the second shot that sent the contest into overtime.

WNEC Women 64 - Westfield 52

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Junior center Lisa Masella (Newtown, CT) had a double double with 13 points and 19 rebounds - the 23rd of her career - to lead host Western New England College to a 64-52 win over Westfield State College in the third annual Pioneer Valley Women's Hoop Classic.

WNEC, which led 40-25 at half-time, never trailed in the game.

Junior forward Amanda Chapin (Westfield, MA) led the Owls (2-3) with a double double of 14 points and 15 rebounds. Sophomore guard Sarah Langner (New Hartford, CT) came off the bench to score 11 points.

MEN'S GAME

Springfield 81 – Westfield 67

WESTFIELD, Mass. – Tournament MVP Derek Yvon (East Longmeadow) poured in 28 points to lead Springfield College to an 81-67 victory over Westfield State College in the Pioneer Valley Men's Hoop Classic on Dec. 4.

Springfield improved to 5-1 while Westfield dropped to 1-5.

Yvon, who canned the game-winning free throws in Friday's 60-58 victory over Western New England College, scored six straight points in a one-minute span as Springfield built its lead to 12, 79-67, with 45 seconds left in the game. The 6-3 guard-forward also finished with three assists and three steals.

Springfield jumped out to an early 10-2 lead, but Westfield battled back for a lead of 22-20 with seven minutes remaining in the first half. The Pride regained the lead at half-time, 33-30, and never trailed in the second half.

All-Tournament team member Joel Aponte (Windsor, Conn.) had a fine game for Springfield with 18 points. Westfield was led by all-tourney selection Bayete Gordon (Amherst, Mass.) with 19 points and four steals. Senior forward Vaso Jaukovic had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Westfield State concludes its first semester schedule when it hosts Purchase, N.Y. College Dec. 18.

Amherst Outlasts Owls In OT, 87-82

WESTFIELD, Mass. - Senior forward Andrew Schiel scored 28 points to lead Amherst College to an 87-82 comeback overtime victory over Westfield State in first night action of the Pioneer Valley Men's Hoop Classic. Springfield College held off Western New England College, 60-58, in the other first round game.

Amherst, ranked eighth nationally by d3hoops.com, improved to 4-0 as it rallied from an 18-point second-half deficit to survive Westfield State's (1-4) major upset bid.

The Lord Jeffs sent the game into overtime at 72-all when senior guard Russell Lee drained a wide open 3-point basket from the top of the key with 13 seconds remaining in regulation.

Amherst took the lead for good in the overtime on a 3-pointer by the 6-7, 235 pound Schiel with 4:27 remaining. The Dwls closed to within a point, 81-80, on a jumper by Bayete Gordon with 1:14 remaining. But Amherst nailed another 3-pointer (by John Casnocha) for an 84-80 lead with 58 seconds remaining.

Westfield took a 35-25 halftime lead as the cold-shooting Lord Jeffs shot 30 percent from the field. The Dwls expanded the lead to 18 points, 55-37 with 13:12 remaining in the second half, by pressuring Amherst into numerous turnovers. But the Lord Jeffs battled back to tie the game at 67-all with 3:53 remaining with some strong inside play and 3-point shooting.

Amherst was 9-for-25 from beyond the arc, including 6-14 in the final 25 minutes. Amherst's depth was evident with seven players making 3-point baskets. Westfield, meanwhile, made only one 3-pointer in five attempts the entire game.

The Dwls' balanced attack was led by Gordon, a speedy 5-7 junior point guard. The former Amherst Regional High School standout finished with 23 points, four assists and three steals. Also scoring in double figures for Westfield were junior forward Mike Jurkowski of Belchertown, senior forward Vaso Jaukovic (16) and sophomore guard Gavin Illangakoon (13).

Westfield State College President Vicky Carwein presents the Mass. State Conference men's and women's cross country teams' conference championship plaques to head coach Bob Reusch at last Tuesday's fall sports banquet.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS 2005

at Westfield State College in the Woodward Center

Feb. 2, 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Presented by Westfield State's Student-Athlete Advisory Board with assistance from SGA

- Nerf Passing Competition
- 3-on-3 Hoop Tournement
- Three Legged Races
- Team Introductions
- Music and DJ
- T-shirts and Prizes
- And Much More!!!

MORE DETAILS NEXT SEMESTER!!

Massachusetts State Conference Smith Cup Standings (Following Fall Sports)

Place	College	Points
1.	Worcester State	15
2.	Westfield State	14
3.	Bridgewater State	13
4.	Framingham State	11
5.	Fitchburg State	9
6.	Mass. Maritime	5
7.	Salem State	5
8.	Mass. College	0

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Matt Dissell (Quad Life) and Peter Appleby (Ballz Deep) for their fine showing in the 26th Annual 10K Road Race (James Bauacos Road Race). They each recieved 10 extra points for their IM team toward the Bauacos Cup! And yes - they really finished the race!

Great job, guys!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

COME VISIT THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE AND SEE WHAT TEAM YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NOW!

CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS ARE IN!

P.S. BE SURE TO BRING AN ID WITH YOU TO GET YOUR SHIRT

I would like to thank my IM staff for all their help with the National Field Hockey Tournament that took place here on November 18th - November 20th. ANOTHER GREAT JOB!
THANK YOU!

Playoffs will begin in all sports, the week of Sunday, December 5th.

If you are interested in any of the following, please call the IM office @ x5424

* Billiards @ Bentley Billards in downtown Westfield
* Field Hockey (women)
* Ice Hockey (women)
* Futsal (men and woman)
* La Crosse (men and women)
* Dodgeball (men and women)

We would like to get these going next semester!

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website: **www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm** Also check the website for upcoming games!

Presented by SAAB

3 v 3 Basketball Tournament

Music & DJ

Nerf Passing Competition

T-Shirts

MIDNIGHT MADNESS 2005

Prizes

Team Introductions

February 2, 2005
Woodward Center
9:30 pm-1 am

Come Join the FUN!

Helped in part by SGA

Want an extra 10 Points toward the Banacos Cup for you team?

Sign up for the Hoop for Heart Tournament to be held on Tuesday, December 7th @ The Woodward Center from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. 3 - 3 Basketball (Mixed Divisons)

Report cont.

University of Massachusetts.

The authors of the report, "Executive and Management Compensation in Massachusetts State Government," were anonymous and it was presented to the state legislature in mid-November.

Another study financed by Massachusetts State Colleges finds state college faculty are 20% underpaid as compared to peer institutions. Professors at state colleges are paid on average $11,328 less than peer institutions. Associate Professors, $5,558, and Assistant Professors, $3,384 less than peer institutions.

Peer institutions include all public institutions with unionized faculty in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania according to the study.

The largest difference in average salary comes in Business Administration and Management with peer institutions making an average of $23,029 more than Massachusetts state college professors.

University of Massachusetts graduate students who teach classes are paid more than WSC adjunct professors.

The highest paid state employee is University of Massachusetts President Jack M. Wilson earning at least 349,999 annually.

The median salary for presidents at public institutions is 328,400. The number of presidents making over $500,000 rose for the second straight year, from 12 to 17. Nationally public college tuition rose 10.5% for 2004-2005 academic year.

Faculty/Staff salaries for the year 2004

Administration							
Patricia Berube	$59,040.80	Susan Dutch	$65,615.73	Michael F König	$59,944.49	Thomas Roscoe	$46,323.28
Vicky Carwein	$163,000.00	Volker Eeke	$44,000.00	Nancy Kotzen	$66,211.79	Beth Ann Rothemel	$49,420.42
Jon Conlogue	$71,716.04	Kristine Empie	$44,000.00	Christopher Kudlac	$41,258.65	Melissa Ron	$44,000.00
Daryl Hendery	$82,412.74	Philip Ettman	$65,541.21	David Laing	$54,092.69	Napoleon Sanchez	$73,508.51
Arthur Jackson	$112,415.94	Donald Ferris	$57,414.16	Karen LaVoie	$51,692.16	Marilyn Sandidge	$61,132.87
Jeanne Julian	$69,823.63	Michael Filas	$44,513.07	Sonya Lawson	$44,000.00	Dana Schwartz	$48,920.04
Susan LaMontagne	$67,231.10	Dila Fisher	$45,572.56	George Layng	$43,797.52	John Shea	$50,312.64
William Lopes	$125,455.24	Teresa Fitts	$44,783.98	Susan Leggett	$47,500.00	Lynn Shelley	$49,993.93
Paul Scannell	$72,149.81	Jeffery Flatt	$61,744.51	Karl Leiker	$70,134.02	Christopher Slaughter	$49,713.04
		Julian Fleron	$56,415.00	Hui-Ling Liu	$55,606.29	David Slavin	$49,500.00
Faculty		Rodenck Francis	$46,000.00	John Loughney	$66,369.67	Stephen Smith	$45,880.90
Mark Abate	$42,866.34	Richard Frank	$57,923.77	David Lovejoy	$73,485.42	Tony Smith	$45,000.00
Stephen Adams	$51,520.88	Larry French	$65,827.23	Michelle Maggio	$58,000.00	Stephen Sossaman	$66,746.64
Linda Albright Mallory	$59,105.97	Thomas Gardner	$51,000.00	Nomazeng Mangaliso	$58,809.78	Cheryl Stanley	$59,419.00
Michael Anciello	$76,834.68	Janet Gelbelt	$47,000.00	Marsha Marotta	$52,715.29	Kathryn Sterne	$53,228.11
Bradford Art	$64,300.32	Erika Gebo	$42,537.66	Penny Martin	$45,500.00	Elizabeth Starr	$42,281.29
Victor Ascolillo	$70,011.66	Aniko Giordano	$49,500.00	Christopher Masi	$46,500.00	Elizabeth Stassinos	$47,500.00
Kate Bagely	$63,300.32	Frank Giuliano	$50,498.44	Thomas Masterson	$53,000.00	Brian Steinberg	$64,477.29
David Bakuli	$67,853.39	Barbara Goff	$48,599.35	Judith McDonald	$42,477.58	Harold Stessel	$70,131.87
Maureen Bardwell	$62,204.72	Bruce Gordon	$73,615.38	Kathleen McIntosh	$63,116.54	Kathryn Sullivan	$72,154.16
Gary Barnett	$44,500.00	Teresa Griffin	$46,500.00	Parag Mehta	$44,000.00	Thomas Sweeney	$41,307.73
Russell Bellico	$74,921.89	Walter Griffith	$66,399.74	Gary Merlo	$63,543.94	Jack Szpiler	$66,906.13
William Bennett	$65,174.31	Carl Grobe	$47,793.70	Jane Mildred	$45,247.95	Marion Templeton	$53,329.61
Sandra Berkowitz	$46,000.00	Kristina Hardy	$45,000.00	William Miller	$51,571.00	Gerald Tetrault	$71,976.46
Andrew Bonacci	$43,349.39	Frederick Harfing	$76,373.40	Jane Nagle	$57,664.40	Kimberly Tobin	$49,403.00
Anthony Bonacquisti	$62,681.57	Liam Haute	$44,500.00	Mark Naidorf	$24,500.00	Emily Todd	$42,692.91
Glen Brewster	$52,822.03	Robert Hayes	$49,299.59	Greggory Neilkirk	$55,918.20	Donald Treadwell	$62,757.29
Robert Brooks	$50,000.00	Gerald Healy	$60,522.00	Mirela Newman	$43,562.62	Roger Tudor	$58,446.00
Madeleine Cahill	$51,600.63	Martin Henley	$67,838.36	Holly Noun	$44,655.62	Warren Turner	$49,000.00
James Carabetta	$64,250.14	Nitza Hidalgo	$67,459.77	Ruth Ohayon	$63,215.88	Karin Vorwerk	$42,537.50
Lou Caton	$45,702.78	Donald Hoagland	$53,214.84	Brooke Orr	$44,000.00	Michael Vorwerk	$46,081.16
Goopeel Chung	$54,000.00	Marcia Horne	$76,765.40	Elinor Parker	$43,500.00	John Wagner	$62,715.00
Claudia Ciano-Boyce	$60,667.83	Philip Hotchkiss	$49,023.43	Timothy Parshall	$45,000.00	Jamie Wainright	$50,048.17
Patricia Conant-Hofman	$75,818.14	John Ifkovic	$67,184.83	John Paulmann	$60,414.37	Suzanne Walsh	$61,331.02
Mary Ann Connors	$63,320.00	Christine Irujo	$49,052.84	Alexander Pershounin	$42,537.66	Mary Watson	$56,000.00
William Cook Jr.	$59,602.41	Kathleen Itterly	$53,500.00	Carol Persson	$65,936.85	Nessim Watson	$44,655.10
Kenneth Cosgrove	$48,000.00	Stanley Jackson	$59,282.65	James Phillips	$78,057.42	Henry Wefing Jr	$56,921.20
Cornelia Daniel	$69,936.26	John Jones	$54,572.37	Erika Pilver	$72,792.16	Edward Welsh	$44,000.00
Ruth Datling	$49,717.91	John Judge	$58,083.53	Lisa Plantefaber	$44,655.10	Scott White	$45,000.00
Theodore Davidovich	$69,916.54	Ricki Kantrowitz	$62,391.06	Elizabeth Preston	$57,609.63	Elise Young	$53,945.55
Peter John Demos	$75,261.81	Barbara Keirn	$62,137.59	David Raker	$51,060.26	Michael Young	$51,730.97
Vanessa Diana	$43,727.71	Stephanie Kelly	$59,473.55	Robert Rausch Jr.	$53,240.35	Usha Zacharias	$44,075.72
Lois Mara Dodge	$38,481.26	Robert Kersting	$52,125.01	Susan Redfitt	$48,500.00	Philip Zampini	$65,273.66
David Doe	$64,636.24	Sabine Klein	$44,000.00	Richard Rees	$44,050.44		
Tian-Jia Dong	$44,000.00	Bradford Knipes	$85,564.65	George Rogers	$66,689.18		
		Trudy Knowles	$62,060.00	Patrick Romano	$72,928.02		

Surgery cont.

"She has allergies; will any meds affect her? What's the success rate? How long will she be in recovery?"

The doctor reassured her mother that this was an easy enough procedure, with a calm, smooth voice.

When they left the office that night, Jen discussed with her mother all of the options.

"I made it clear to her that this was only going to get fixed surgically." Her mother then agreed to letting her go through with the procedure.

The following day, the office called with a price estimate. The procedure will be close to $4000, hospital bills and tests included. Jen's surgery will take place on December 28th at 12:45 p.m. at the Noble Hospital surgical suite.

"I like my girlfriend the way she is, I really do. It's stereotypical, but I just don't want her to change." Jen's boyfriend Mark* sits comfortably on his bed, next to her.

He chuckles to himself. "Don't get me wrong, I'm glad she's doing what she wants to do, but even if she didn't do this, it wouldn't have an effect on me. The fact of the matter is that it's important to her and no one else."

"He's been incredibly supportive about all of this." Jen said. "I'm not doing this for anyone but myself, and he knows that. I honestly don't care what other people think of my body. I just want to be comfortable wearing normal tee-shirts and not have to worry about this thing hanging out."

Jen is preparing for her recovery and has to take some time off from work.

"It's so embarrassing to tell people I'm getting this done. It's like I'm admitting defeat."

Jen had to inform her boss at her place of employment that she would have to take five days off at the end of December, which will in turn cost her a hundred dollars or so in pay. Her boss inquired as to why, considering corporate headquarters needed to have a letter from the surgeon to excuse the absence. Jen brought in a letter with the Russolillo emblem on it, including the term "cosmetic/plastic surgery."

"I get the same reaction from everyone when I tell them I'm getting this done. I get a look as if to say … 'Why?'"

The surgery will take approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Recovery includes having to wear an elastic girdle for several weeks until all bruising and swelling has disappeared. Jen will not be allowed to bathe for five days, and must don sweats for that time period as well. "Confining" clothing is not allowed because it could disrupt the healing process.

Jen says she is only somewhat prepared for this experience.

"I'm not nervous yet. When I see surgical procedures on TV I get sort of scared, knowing that will be me in a couple weeks. I'll be nervous on December 27th at midnight."

Jen has never had surgery, or any other major medical procedure for that matter. She is most looking forward to the outcome.

"I want to be normal. I want to have a proportionate body and be able to wear the clothes I choose. I know I'm going to be in pain and it will take time for recovery, but I'm ready for it. I've been ready since I was sixteen. I remember the doctor telling me that I'd be able to wear a bikini with no problems. But you know what? That's the furthest thing from my mind. I just want to be comfortable in my own skin."

Catch the next part of this series in The Voice after Winter Break!

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

JOY
A Multicultural Christmas Concert
At Westfiled Woman's club
28 Court St. Westfield
Saturday, December 18 at 2p.m.
Info call: 413-575-2366

Mon 12/13	Breakfast with Santa - SBH 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:30 p.m. & 6:30 to 9:45 p.m.	Monday Evening Jazz - EML 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tue 12/14	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 6:30 to 9:45 p.m.	R.A.D. Training - 333 - 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	L.A.F.E. - TWR - 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Wed 12/15	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Third World Organization - TWR - 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	
Thurs 12/16	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m.		
Fri 12/17	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.		
Sat 12/18	Men's Basketball - WSC vs SUNY-PURCHASE - WOOD - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30 p.m. - Midnight	Sun 12/19	Rec Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****
We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key
AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups
The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Plastic surgery of WSC student chronicled in a two part feature pg. 1

State house report reveals salary discrepancy pg. 1

Photo by Mike Coughlin

Ribbons are out says this week's Fashion Files pg. 7

New internet software to protect campus pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | January 31, 2005 | Issue XIIII

Empty nest

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

ELY-The Ely Campus Center renovations have continued on into second semester passing the projected completion; which would have had Subway opened in time for students returning from Winter break, now students, staff and faculty have to wait until Valentine's Day to get their subs, sandwiches and coffee in Ely.

Curt Robie, Director of Facilities and Operations, said the original deadline was "unrealistic" and hopes to have the renovations completed sometime around Valentine's Day. The renovations cost $300,000 said Robie.

With Subway closed the Corner Cafe has been open till 7 p.m. with a limited offering of cold sandwiches to help students cope with the temporary loss of Subway. It was suggested at last weeks S.G.A. meeting that the longer lines in the Dining Commons may have had some-

Cafe - Page 2

Academic Affairs needs to shape up says report

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

According to a recent report, Academic Affairs is failing to serve the needs of the college as well as expected. The review was done in November by James Malek, Regional Vice Chancellor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and Sharon J. Washington of Spelman College.

The report recommends a consensation of direct reports to the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) and all academic departments to be grouped into three larger schools.

Currently the VPAA receives at least 31 direct reports. The review recommends cutting that number to less than ten. The report recommends the construction of three schools that would encompass all academic departments; School of Profcssional Studies and Education, School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Studies and School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Each school would be assigned a dean who would report to the VPAA directly.

Affairs-Page 3

WSC student pleads innocent to charge of murder

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

WESTFIELD-Westfield State College student, Bryan R. Johnston, pleaded innocence last Tuesday, Jan. 25 to charges of murder, armed burglary and two counts of possession of a large capacity firearm in connection to the killing of a University of Massachusetts student, the Springfield Republican reported.

David Sullivan, 22, of Amherst, MA was found dead on his bedroom floor in the early morning of Dec. 8, 2004. Police reports state that "there were visible gunshot wounds to the body as well as trauma to the torso and left hand," as well as "six expended Remington .223 caliber firearm shell castings" recovered from the bedroom. There were no signs of forced entries, which led police to believe that Sullivan knew the assailant.

According to police reports, the night of the murder Johnston was stopped and released by Hadley Police about seven miles from Sullivan's house shortly after the Amherst Police Department receeived an emergency 911 call from Sullivan's roommate. Later that morning Johnston contacted his parents and told them that he had shot someone and was then admitted to Noble Hospital in Westfield for what was described as "his own protection."

According to the Berkshire Eagle, Johnston and Sullivan graduated together from Wahconah Regional High School in 2000. Johnston first attended the University Of Hawaii but then transferred to Westfield State where he majors in Criminal Justice.

Johnston was arraigned in the hospital later that day and, according to the Republican, is currently being held without bail until his scheduled pretrial conference set for April 6.

Comfortable in her own skin, part deux

By Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

Given America's dubious distinction as the fattest nation in the world, it's no surprise that liposuction is booming. But before jumping on the bandwagon, potential patients should consider that liposuction is not "casual surgery," as testimonials for cosmetic surgery clinics might suggest.

The liposuction procedure involves inserting hollow metal tubes through small incisions in the skin and then sucking out fat deposits. The procedure is used commonly on thighs or to reduce the appearance of "love handles." Smaller tubes can also remove fat from around the face.

However, there is no such thing as a surgery without risk. Even though serious or fatal complications occur in less than one half of one percent of patients, blood clots are the most common serious risk following liposuction. Clots that travel to the heart, lungs or brain can be deadly. Other risks include bleeding, infection, collection of fluids under the skin, skin dimpling and an asymmetrical body contour.

A scary scenerio to most, but the 20-year old Westfield State College student who has lived with an unsightly tummy was ready for whatever battle she may had to fight.

Jen rode through the Dunkin Donuts drive-thru in her green 1997 Chevy Malibu, anticipating another breakfast sandwich that would prove to be less than satisfying. Jen had returned to her hometown in Western Massachusetts after a short stint at Noble Hospital, for pre-operation blood tests and paperwork.

Pulling up to the window, she handed the teller a dollar and some odd change, and watched him close the window. Jen looked down at the ground as she always did, inspecting it for loose change someone might've

Surgery- Page 9

Unconventional student proud to call WSC home

By Courtney Loftus
Voice Reporter

SCANLON-In the third floor of Scanlon Hall, at the end of a hallway, Gary "the duck" Muddiman sips on a cup of coffee and relaxes on an extra large blow-up mattress that takes up nearly all of the space in his tiny dorm room. Muddiman, a fine arts and European history major, received his nickname during his tow-truck-driving days when co-workers heard him sneeze over the system radio and thought he sounded like a quacking duck.

Posters of James Dean, Albert Einstein, and Budweiser girls in bikinis decorate the white walls, as do many of Muddiman's works of art. His paintings and drawings depict tigers, angels, faces and bodies as well as a number of other subjects, including a Picasso-like self-portrait.

Photo by: Cliff Ashbrook

Gary Muddiman

"I've always been interested in art," he says, "but it wasn't my focus when I came here because my other love was science." Muddiman originally wanted to become either a biology or health teacher, but was unable to get past chemistry—a requirement for both. Now he hopes to teach art to either high school or college students.

As the front-end supervisor at the campus bookstore, Muddiman juggles class time, schoolwork and his job, and like many college students, he takes full advantage of his free time on the weekends, often visiting City Limits or other bars in downtown Westfield. He is like many other Westfield State College students in a number of ways—only a few minor details set him apart from his fellow students.

The white hair on his head is colored jet black, and he wears yellow-tinted glasses to soften his facial features. An eagle and a Playboy bunny symbol hang from the silver chains dangling from his neck as he talks about

The Duck-Page 2

Westfield's own Killswitch Engage interviewed

pg. 10

Student fights fashion addiction

pg. 11

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Cafe

thing to do with the closing of Subway.

Robie cited delays in getting certain building materials as part of the hold up for the renovations. The wall that used to separate the Nest has been knocked down giving the area a more open feel, "It will provide more room, for coffeehouses," said Robie.

Taking place of the Nest will be the "Jazzman's Café", a Starbucks like coffee shop said Robie, adding that it will have all new furniture, lighting and will sell a wide variety of food.

Once the renovations are complete it will take another week to have a full staff trained to work the Jazzman's Café said Michael Maselek, Food Service Director for Westfield State College.

"We're going to have a 'soft' opening where certain school officials and students are invited and the staff can get a feel for the traffic that will be coming and going," said Maselek. Offered at the Café will be breakfast sandwiches in the morning along with fresh baked goods and cold sandwiches to be offered in the afternoon. "I think the coffee is better than what they serve at Starbucks," said Maselek, "but that's my personal bias."

-Photo by Matthew Bernat

Renovations have left the Ety Campus Center mostly empty with the absence of Subway and the Nest.

Maselek encourages any students interested in working at the Jazzman's Café to fill out an application. Maselek can be reached at ext. 5422.

The new Café will be open Monday thru Thursday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will not be open on weekends.

The Duck

two ex-wives and five children. He is a 55-year-old full-time student living and working on a campus consisting primarily of 18- to 23-year olds.

Although he has already lived a very full life, much more so than many of his classmates, Muddiman is working toward achieving the same goal as the rest of his fellow students: to graduate from college with a degree. Muddiman is one of nearly six million undergraduate students in the United Sates, nearly 40% of all American college students, considered to be "adult students" (those 25 years of age or older).

"I gotta go back to school, this is ridiculous."

Gary "The Duck" Muddiman

Muddiman, who was the oldest of seven children living in Cincinnati, Ohio, dropped out of high school and then served in the Navy during Vietnam. Upon returning home, he met the woman who would, in just a few short years, become his first ex-wife.

He later worked in a hospital and a photography studio, as an EMT and a taxi driver, and he also pumped gas. At the time of his second marriage he was working as a gas station attendant on Sumner Avenue in Springfield. He vividly remembers one freezing-cold morning as one of the turning points in his life.

"It was six below zero outside," Muddiman recalls with a laugh, "and my hand froze to the gas pump while I'm pumping this guy's gas. So I says, 'Go get me some water.' He gets it and I get it off. I went home that night, I said to my wife at the time, 'I gotta go back to school, this is ridiculous…I'm a vet, I got veterans' benefits and I ain't doin' squat! I got more brains than that. I can do this without freezing my hands to a damn gas pump.'"

He then got his associates degree in accounting at Springfield Technical Community College and worked in that field for about 20 years doing taxes and payrolls. After losing nearly $30,000 that clients owed him, he decided, again, that he was in need of a change.

Muddiman remembers thinking, "Wait a minute. There's gotta be something else I can do that I can use my heart and I won't be working 90 hours a week." He worked as a substitute teacher in Springfield high schools for a year, which was his inspiration for returning to college.

In 1999, at the age of 50, Muddiman commuted to WSC to earn a teaching degree, and in 2000 he moved onto campus, working as a resident assistant in the dorms.

"I loved every minute of it," he says of his time spent as an RA.

Not only has he gained new insights about the younger, college-aged generation, but he is now able to see things about his own generation that he had not seen before.

He explains that people his age forget when they were younger. "They're always judging," he says, "instead of looking at it and saying 'ok I did that when I was younger, what the hell is so bad about what they're doing?'" He realized that if he wanted to have a good relationship with the younger residents, he would have to change from being a judgmental parent to a good listener.

According to the Journal of Higher Education, "Adult [students] do not typically engage in many campus activities, and their social needs are likely met through existing relationships off campus." While this may be true for many non-traditional students, Muddiman is an exception. In addition to living and working on campus, he eats in the dining commons, works out in the gym, and swims in the pool. Muddiman has also been a part of the student government and attends campus events such as the annual Senate Banquet.

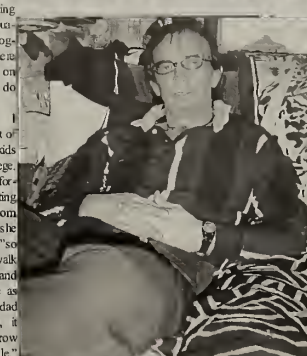
Muddiman does not view his age as something that makes him different. In fact, he almost seems to forget how many years he actually has on many of his classmates. "Am I crazy?" he asks, "I feel like I'm 24. I don't feel like I'm 55."

Jessica Nardi, a 21-year-old art education major, has had classes with Muddiman and has also spent time with him outside of the classroom due to mutual friendships. She says that Muddiman seems younger than he really is and that the way he acts in the classroom is different from the way other adult students act.

"Their ideas are usually a lot different than ours," Nardi says about older students, "but Gary seems to think more like us. He doesn't try to intimidate anyone or act like he's better just because he's an adult."

Although Nardi accepts Muddiman as just another fellow college student working toward graduation, she recognizes that there are people on campus who do not.

"I think that a lot of times, when kids come to college, they look forward to getting away from adults," she explains, "so when they walk into a party and see someone as old as their dad hanging out, it might throw them off a little." Muddiman, too, acknowledges that a lot of people do not understand who he is and have a hard time identifying with him. "I'm complicated as hell," he says, "and I come from different facets of life and so many different directions that it's hard to swallow for some people."



-Photo by Cliff Ashcroft

Gary Muddiman, better known as "The Duck", takes a breather in his Scanlon Hall dorm room before going to work.

Although it is taking longer than he originally anticipated, Muddiman hopes to graduate within the next year. He aspires to be the kind of teacher who can make a difference in his students' lives and give them the confidence to think for themselves. "I want that student to walk out of my classroom and say 'you know, I really enjoyed your class, and the one thing that I will always remember is that I got this up here.'" Muddiman says, pointing to his head, "'and that I'm going to use it.'"

From the Editor's Desk

Student apathy hinders battle

We are all well aware of the struggles the faculty of Westfield State College are going through right now that involve contract issues. With the "neutrality" decision from the SGA, countless letters to the editors, poorly attended protest gatherings and one lone professor with a sandwich sign standing in the cold, all we're really missing is a partridge in a pear tree.

As far as this editor is concerned, no, it's obviously not fair that the hard-working faculty of this fine institution are still being shafted; They are not receiving fair treatment or high enough pay for the work they put in.

Yes, the SGA did run away with their tails between their legs so they wouldn't cause a stir, but rest assured, eventually they will learn that sometimes certain issues ARE black and white.

We all know this.

However, clever little stunts like giving extra "help" outside in the cold aren't going to make the students here think any differently about these problems. I understand that you are free to express yourself Professor Fleron, and more power to you for doing so. But what good is that really doing?

The majority of 18 to 25-year olds, especially on this campus, are self-involved in one way or another. Unless an event or decision will disrupt their lives, it's doubtful that they will care. If the faculty really wants help, they need to make it known to the students that they are the ones that will eventually suffer if change does not happen soon and that they need the help.

And no, refusing overloads is not a good way to start.

Whoever came up with that bright idea ought to be left out of a new contract all together. That is not teaching anyone a lesson about standing up for the professors. Instead, it's merely ticking off already flustered students who are standing in two-hour lines for add-drop. You are essentially punishing students for something they have no control over. It's completely understandable that some professors would rather not have a classroom with forty students in it, but to outright deny student's admittance into classes they need because of a seperate issue isn't right either.

Even though it has been printed several times, students should know that the decisions of the administration and (sometimes) the SGA will ultimately affect them. Now, professors, you know better than anyone else that to get the kids to learn something here, you have to jackhammer it into their little heads. Make it known that the suits over in Boston could give a flying fig about poor state college students or their little financial problems, and that the education they receive here is dependent on how well the faculty is treated.

The apathy of the students is a major problem and if the faculty expects to get any kind of major support from the students, I suggest doing something to grab and hold on to their attention, something that calls to them. Sponsor a keg party. Or better yet, host a riot. That always seems to get students involved. Even the girls that enjoy exposing their breasts could be put to good use. Have them write "Fair Contracts Now!" on themselves and pose for the cameras. Again.

Of course I'm (half) joking with these suggestions, but the main point is to make this fight for a new contract more about the students and faculty as a whole. After all, we do share this school.

Making student's lives harder will not make them want to support the professors in making theirs easier.

Emily Engel
Editor In Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Fleron's new 'open office' policy

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Anyone needing help from Professor Julian Fleron should visit him during his office hours and be prepared with pencil, paper, scarf and hat. Don't bother with a pen; the ink will freeze.

As temperatures average in the high teens, Fleron, a Mathematics professors, is holding his office hours outside the front entrance to Parenzo. He is trying to bring attention to his view that Massachusetts' public higher education is being left out in the cold.

Fleron, along with all state college professors represented by the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA) is at a stalemate with the Board of Higher Education (BHE) over a new contract. The professors have been working under a temporary, renewable contract.

Fleron said that his protest is not an attempt at a one-man revolution but rather just a way of expressing his concerns. "I'm trying to teach. That's my job," said Fleron. Philosophy Professor and the Union's Chief Negotiator Brad Art stood with Fleron and that there is an open invitation to all students and professors to join in.

"I don't think it's counterproductive. I think people have a right to express themselves the way they want," said Art. Art said there are several professors who are frustrated the Union ends its second year without any meaningful negotiations.

The uncomfortable temperatures, said Fleron, do cause a bit of hardship on students needing help. "It's not half as bad as being imposed to all the budget cuts," said Fleron.

> **"It's not half as bad as being imposed to all the budget cuts."**
>
> **Julian Fleron, Mathematics Professor**

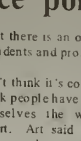
"It's difficult to help students both literally and figuratively in this environment," said Fleron.

Fleron prepared an informational paper for his students describing the position of the MSCA and the BHE. The paper describes what Fleron calls examples that undermine the viability of public higher education.

"Everybody does their own thing," said Fleron. He said he understands the frustration lies not just with Westfield but all nine state colleges and the University of Massachusetts.

Fleron said people are hearing his message and he will continue to hold his office hours outside until

Voice of the Week



Bonnie Clark

Role at WSC: She is the campus secretary and National Student Exchange Secretary

Years Spent working at WSC: A little over two years

Favorite part of the job: The chance to work with the students. She also likes hosting students from other colleges and meeting people from different countries.

How she got into the job: Bonnie used to work in the private sector but wanted to work in a more stable and secure environment. She also wanted to stay in the area and desired a chance to work with students.

Favorite movie: Pulp Fiction and Gone with the Wind

Favorite TV Show: Seinfeld

What she wanted to be when she was little: "A Rockette because I used to top and an airline stewardist because I always thought it was glamarous."

Bonnie would also like to say: "I am shocked and honored to be the Voice of the Week."

Voices Overheard compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Affairs

Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations said that former VPAA William Lopes had become so accustomed to the position that requests were executed but not necessarily through the right channels. "When you are there that long things get muddled," said Maloney.

Lopes left the position this summer after 17 years at the post. He is currently taking a yearlong leave of absence. Lopes is still making over $125,000 this year according to a list of employee salaries obtained through WSC Human Services.

Lopes, who left in July, said he basically resigned his post and refused to comment further. He plans on returning to WSC in the Fall as a professor.

Maloney said the system needs to be tweaked but is not altogether in disrepair. He said the College was already aware of much of what the review documented and the report was a way of documenting it.

Joan Rasool, the current acting VPAA, said she doesn't feel right implementing the recommended reforms while in an interim position. A search committee has been formed and is headed by Maloney to fill the position of VPAA. The position is slated to be filled by late March or early April. Maloney expects the new VPAA to begin work in the summer. Rasool is a candidate for the job.

Robert Bristow, Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies replaced Bob Martin who left last year and is currently the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Framingham State.

Maloney said the report is to act as a guidepost for the new VPAA to work under. "It doesn't mean anything to what the person coming in will actually implement," said Maloney.

Rasool was reassigned to the post on an interim basis by WSC President Vicky Carwein who commissioned the review of Academic Affairs.

Rasool said she would rather be proactive in the position instead of putting out what the report calls brushfires in so many fields. Rasool said she spends too much time tending to things that have already happened and that this should not be the role of Academic Affairs.

"I'm not looking for more layers of bureaucracy but ways to delegate authority," said Rasool.

Brad Art, Chief Negotiator for the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA), said his main concern is governance. "Procedurally the All-College Committee is the proper place to go with this information and they will solicit information and give recommendations," said Art.

The All-College Committee, made up of faculty and librarians, students and administrators, was established by the MSCA to make recommendations to the President about academic matters of the college and other matters that relate to faculty and students.

Other recommendations include additional training for staff, decision making processes should be inclusive and transparent, the department of Continuing Education be split up among the newly developed three academic schools and that all academic records be kept in one office.

SGA and MASSPIRG plan tsunami relief

By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

The Student Government held another of its weekly meetings on Tuesday, January 25. The WSC MASSPIRG Campus Coordinator, Bethany Shaw was present and spoke of MASSPIRG's plan to aid the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. As of press time, 228,164 were missing or presumed dead, and according to Shaw, all that remains for the victims is "starvation and disease."

MASSPIRG's goal is to raise $400,000 across the country, $1000 to $1500 of which they hope to collect at Westfield State College. The plan, according to Shaw, is to use the money collected across the country to purchase 400 water tanks to assists with the lack of drinkable water in the devastated region. Collections will be held Wednesday, February 2, at 7 p.m.

Also addressed by the Student Government Association was the apparent lack of minority enrollment on campus. The current minority enrollment percentage, according to Dr. Arthur Jackson, "fluctuates between six and eight percent." In order to increase diversity, Westfield State College was awarded a Diversity Education Grant to reach its goal of 10 to 15 percent minority enrollment. Around 100 students from nearby urban areas such as Springfield, Holyoke, and Worcester will be invited to tour the campus in an effort to appeal more to the minority populations.

Interestingly, the Food Service Committee delivered a message to the Student Government from the Food Services Director, Craig Goodridge that they are currently working on reducing the length of the lines even though they, "didn't know the lines were a problem." Also helpful in reducing line length would be if "people could pick what they want a little faster."

Goodridge was apparently unaware that there were food services employees preparing food without their gloves. However, he asserts that such food preparation is in violation of Massachusetts health codes. Anyone caught preparing food without gloves is subject to the loss of employment. Goodridge encourages you to find him to report any such incidents when they happen.

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Voices Overheard

What did you do to keep warm during the blizzard?

Josh Carrig
Sociology Major

"I took shelter inside of a vulva."

Kristen Edmonds
Business Management Major

"I stayed in my room"

Peter Salomone
Mass Communications Major

"I lit my family on fire."

Tristan Anderson
History Major

"I tried to pretend I was a pen-uin."

Voices Overheard compiled by Sarah Cagan & Cliff Ashbrook

Do you want to be a representative to the Student Senate?

Two posistions are available.

Interviews take place Monday.
January 31 at 5:15 p.m. in Ely room 230

If you have any questions call x5429

Iraqis Take Debate to the Internet

BY MATTHEW MCALLESTER
NEWSDAY

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- On the Internet, no one knows you're a Kurd. No one knows you're Shia or Sunni. No one knows your name or where you live. And in Iraq, that means no one can kill you or threaten you with any realistic menace for expressing a political opinion.

Don't try doing that now on the streets of Baghdad.

"I think the Americans make us happy," posted an anonymous person going by the screen name merody--love2 Tuesday afternoon in a Yahoo! chat room devoted to Iraqi politics. Such a sentiment is rarely, if ever, heard in public spaces in Iraq these days.

"Hail, the mujahedeen of Fallujah, Um Qasr and the Sunni Triangle," rejoined a debater named midospeak, expressing the kind of thought that might bring American soldiers or Iraqi police to his or her door -- if they knew where that door was. While many of the screen names are in English, their messages are typed in Arabic.

While Iraq's first true elections may be a step forward for this country emerging after 35 years of dictatorship and two years of a government imposed by outside powers -- mainly the United States -- the level of intimidation and intolerance for the opinion of others is so great that there is almost no public political discourse, even during the last days of the election campaign. It's not just the lack of party conventions and meetings, the absence of home visits from campaign volunteers and the millions of car bumpers unadorned with stickers. People don't, generally, even like to sit in tea shops discussing their first-ever open elections.

> **"Maybe if I express myself freely in a public place someone from the mujahedeen or someone who misunderstands me will kill me or hurt me." -Talib**

"Maybe if I express myself freely in a public place someone from the mujahedeen or someone who misunderstands me will kill me or hurt me," said Talib, 29, who asked that his last name not be published and spoke about the election only after much persuasion as he stood on a street corner with two friends.

No such inhibitions exist on the Internet. There, Iraqis are cutting loose with flailing anger, bigotry, subtle and unsubtle humor and the occasional snippets of temperance and insight.

"This is the site of Al-Zarqawi's mother," posted one user named hitman. He was referring to the Jordanian-born terrorist leader. The Web site's name referred to female genitalia. Hitman returned to suggest the site was actually the property of Osama bin Laden's sisters.

Others of a different political persuasion bounced back, with equal crudity, one issuing a "breaking news" flash about a prominent Shia cleric giving birth to a child himself and naming it after another prominent cleric.

Every now and then, a participant would burst in with a simple: "Yes to elections" or "No to elections," or the ambiguous declaration that "The election day is the decisive day."

"America is a crown on the head of pimps," another said.

It was not, perhaps, the stuff of high-minded pre-election debate; but it was free and open discussion, nonetheless. And in its emphasis on insulting and challenging the ethnicity and religion of others, it mirrored the actual campaign, albeit with more colorful language.

Many candidates, like the chat room visitors, remain anonymous for now. Many parties remain mum when it comes to explaining what their actual politics are. If the level of political discourse online is frequently primitive, perhaps that's partly because Iraqis have been given few solid issues to debate by their would-be leaders.

At least some users Tuesday tried to calm the insults and invective.

"Please guys," wrote sawa--4--friends, "don't create ethnic tension. We are bigger than this."

Even some of the few peacemakers in the room, however, couldn't resist ending their postings with a plug for their own ethnic group.

"Yes, yes to the election," wrote dikoweg. "And long live the Kurdish nation, the nation of peace and brotherhood."

Academy Passes Over Politics and 'Passion'

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- "The Passion of the Christ" and "Fahrenheit 9/11" might have been the year's most talked about movies, cultural watersheds that produced hefty lines at movie houses and a mother lode of pundits yapping about the inevitable divide between red America and blue America. Yet one group that seemed curiously uninterested in the religion, politics and controversy the two pictures embraced were the 5,808 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which opted to leave both off the shortlist for best picture.

"The Passion of the Christ," which Mel Gibson financed out of his own pocket, earned a staggering $370 million at the domestic box office, while "Fahrenheit 9/11" took in $119 million, the most ever for a documentary, making the omissions a particularly striking illustration of the notion that popularity does not necessarily correlate with Oscar success. The combined total domestic gross of the five best picture nominees was just less than $205 million.

Yet as with almost everything to do with both of these pictures, few can agree about why they were left out. While the vagaries of Oscar campaigns and arcane academy rules seem to have worked against Gibson and Moore, some insiders argue that Oscar balloting is a relatively straightforward meritocracy -- the community simply liked other pictures better. Others point to a lingering distaste among some voters for Gibson's public pronouncements during the film's release publicity campaign.

"There were pictures that people liked more than those. The voters were looking at the list of all the eligible nominees, and there was some decent competition. I would not read into it a political message," said Martin Kaplan, associate dean of the University of Southern California Annenberg Center for Communication.

"I've not heard of any cabal, any underground whispering, no sense of membership conspiracy. I've been involved with the academy for decades, and this membership is so disparate they can't even agree what to disagree about," said producer and former studio chief Peter Guber. "It's more likely that 'Ray,' somebody who is a legend, will win because of sympathy, than it will be because of some political maelstrom that's concocted around a film when it came out."

-File Photo

Director Michael Moore accepted the People's Choice Award for "Fahrenheit 9/11's" favorite movie award. Some critics were shocked that neither "Fahrenheit 9/11" or Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" were nominated for the Academy Award's Best Picture. "Passion" was awarded the favorite dramatic movie at the People's Choice Awards.

Yet, others are not so sure, such as Bob Berney, president of Newmarket Films, which handled the domestic release of "The Passion of the Christ," which depicts the last hours of Jesus' life. "It has always been a populist anti-Hollywood movie. It was a longshot with the academy for obvious political reasons," Berney said. "The film didn't get reviewed or appreciated as much as it should have because they were reviewing Mel's personal politics."

"Hollywood spent more time in the last year in trying to beat George Bush than trying to make a good movie. They lost and they're angry, and they're going to take it out on one of the few good movies of the year," said Washington, D.C., advertising copywriter Patrick Hynes, who started a Web site devoted to getting "The Passion of the Christ" Oscar nominations, a feat that has landed him on the conservative talk-show circuit.

"The fairly obvious response in what is now known as the Red States is that Hollywood doesn't share the values of mainstream and middle America."

While the academy left Gibson's film out of the running for the top prizes, it did honor other aspects of the movie's craft, bestowing upon it nominations for cinematography, makeup and original score. "We're honored by the academy's acknowledgment of their achievements," said the actor-director in a statement.

Gibson chose not to campaign for the award, eschewing pricey Oscar ads and parties, although he did send out 7,000 to 8,000 DVDs, and sponsor screenings. Some have wondered if this was a different kind of ploy. "Their little non-campaign is indeed a campaign in itself," said Tom Ortenberg, president of Lion's Gate Film Releasing.

A number of Oscar strategists, rival studio executives and academy members cited factors that dampened the chances for "The Passion of the Christ," such as strongly negative reviews, subtitles, and a weak central performance. Several suggested that many academy members hadn't seen the film, turned off by its violence. A few, who declined to be identified, said they were dismayed by what they perceived as Gibson's refusal to disavow his father's public statements denying the magnitude of the Holocaust. "There are enough people in the academy who actually believe the Holocaust happened and the whole thing with his father, that's beyond beyond," one said.

By contrast, Michael Moore's film "Fahrenheit 9/11" might have attracted political travelers in Hollywood, but Moore scorched its Oscar chances by taking it out of the competition for its natural award: best documentary feature.

"It was Michael's decision, and we supported him 100 percent," said Ortenberg, whose company released the film domestically.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" casts a harsh light on the Bush administration's response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Academy rules bar documentaries from running on TV for nine months after release, so Moore, who wanted to have a big-pay TV release of the film before the 2004 election, chose not to submit his film in the documentary category, said one involved with the film, adding that Moore, an Oscar winner for "Bowling for Columbine" wanted to allow the limelight to shine on other less-known documentarians.

For a variety of political and business reasons, the TV event never materialized. Moore had to settle for much smaller exposure on TV, as well as competing for an Oscar in the more competitive arena of best picture, where no documentary has been nominated.

Unlike Gibson, the firebrand filmmaker campaigned vigorously, schmoozing with Hollywood players. "We've run a very aggressive award-season campaign," Ortenberg said.

Neither Moore nor Gibson has been much of a presence at any recent awards ceremonies, with the exception of the People's Choice Awards, where "Fahrenheit" won favorite movie, and "Passion" won favorite movie, drama.

The People's Choice Awards were determined by 21 million online voters, and Moore, for one, used his Web site to tell fans that a vote for the film was a vote against President Bush.

In his acceptance speech, Gibson, who received a standing ovation, welcomed the popular acclaim. "I depended on you and you were there," Gibson said. "If it wasn't for you guys, we'd be dead in the water."

After the Tsunami: Novia, 13, Lost Her Sister and a Best Friend

By David Brown
The Washington Post

In the last month, Novia has known fear, loss and relief in a way most children never do. She has lived through a rare and dangerous event. It will take a long time for her to make sense of it.

Novia is a 13-year-old Indonesian girl who survived the tsunami the morning after Christmas. She lost her younger sister and her best friend to the 40-foot waters that swept through her town. For a time, she wasn't sure if she had lost her whole family.

Today she knows that her father, mother and two brothers are safe. She can laugh and smile, although not as easily as before. She lives in a tiny shelter that her father, a carpenter, made of scrap wood and sheet metal found in the wreckage of their town. What she wants most is water--clean water for drinking and washing. And she wants to get back to school.

Novia Sasmita Jossi (her first name is pronounced Novee) is in her first year of junior high school and wants to be a doctor. Math is her favorite subject. She likes sports, especially kasti@ (a game a little like baseball) and volleyball, which is big in Indonesia. One afternoon last week, she watched her father build a wooden stand where he can sell bottled water, vegetables and other items. She agreed to tell her story.

On the morning of Dec. 26, she was at school getting ready for a scout camping trip when she felt an earthquake. The quake occurred on the bottom of the ocean about 150 miles off the northwest coast of Sumatra, where her town of Calang (pronounced Cha-long) sits. The earthquake triggered the tsunami.

Scout leaders soon canceled the trip and Novia rode her red bicycle home, which took about five minutes.

Her father would not let her enter their house because he feared it might collapse. Her mother and 3-year-old brother were away, visiting relatives. Dedi, her 15-year-old brother, and Izza, her 5-year-old sister, were in Calang, however.

Since Novia couldn't stay in her house, she went to see her best friend, Rosi, whose house was not damaged. The two girls watched some television--a "Tom and Jerry" cartoon was on--and then heard a lot of noise outside.

People were running and yelling, "Get out of the house! The water is coming, run for the hill!" She heard a sound "like a big wind." (Other people said it sounded like an airplane.) She and Rosi grabbed each other's hand and ran toward the hill on the far side of town. Hundreds of others were running with them.

Halfway across a rice field, the water caught up with them. It was black. Novia does not know how to swim, but was able to grab a fallen tree that floated by. She held on to Rosi's hand but the water was too strong. It broke their grip and Rosi disappeared.

The surging water then carried Novia partway up the hill. She was crying and very scared. She hadn't had a chance to think of her family until then: They'll be running, too, she told herself; they'll save themselves.

That night it poured. Novia was soaked and bitten by mosquitoes. Some women made a shelter of large leaves and sticks for her and another child. The next morning, she learned that her father was alive. When she finally found him, she said, "He was crying so much and he held on to me so tight."

They looked for two days but never found her little sister. Rosi and her family--parents and three siblings--also were lost. So were at least half of Calang's 8,000 people.

Now, a month later, Novia has new chores: helping draw water and carrying food from where helicopters drop it off. Sometimes she thinks the world is coming to an end, she said. Other times, she has hope.

Earth-moving equipment is leveling land where temporary houses will go. Her father is building his little store. Soon, school will start again. Life will get back to normal. It just will never be the same.

Hillary's Abortion Comments Reflect Some Concern

By Ken Fireman
Newsday

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's latest remarks on abortion reflect a growing perception among Democrats that they face a dilemma in dealing with divisive social issues, several political observers said Tuesday.

The New York Democrat's comments on Monday, in which she called abortion a "sad, even tragic choice" for many women, were seen by several observers as at least the start of an effort by a potential presidential candidate to reposition herself on the issue.

Clinton staffers strongly denied that she was modifying her views on the issue, while anti-abortion leaders dismissed the speech as nothing new.

But Democratic political strategist Paul Begala said the speech's venue -- an Albany, N.Y., luncheon attended by family planning advocates who strongly support abortion rights -- gave Clinton's remarks a special resonance, even if she has voiced them in the past.

"Any time a politician goes to their strongest supporters and challenges them, it's a good thing," said Begala, who worked on the campaigns of the senator's husband, former President Clinton.

Begala compared the Albany appearance to Bill Clinton's 1992 "Sister Souljah" speech, in which he went before a black audience and denounced a rap artist for making what he called hateful anti-white remarks.

"It's about time a Democrat stood up and said there are too many abortions in America, we ought to restrict the number, and people who oppose abortions are good people," he said.

In her remarks, Clinton said she would continue to support keeping abortion legal, but respected those who wish to ban it. She called for both sides to seek common ground around an effort to reduce abortion by curbing unwanted pregnancies.

Clinton spokesman Philippe Reines said her comments were not new: "As Sen. Clinton has done for over a decade, she emphasized her desire to focus on making abortions safe, legal and rare, and she emphasized that we should be able to find some common ground."

But other Clinton aides acknowledged that the changing political environment since President Bush was re-elected with strong support from social conservatives might have contributed to the way the speech was received around the country, even as they said it did not affect its timing or content.

One expert in the impact of religion on politics, Matthew Wilson of Southern Methodist University, said Clinton and other Democrats face a growing dilemma on abortion and other social issues like same-sex marriage.

"The Democrats' problem on this issue is that a significant portion of their most reliable base voters disagree with them on this question," Wilson said. "Latinos, African-Americans and the rural poor, all are traditional Democratic constituencies and all are significantly more pro-life than the population as a whole. But if you look at the activists in the party, the people who drive things and who show up in primaries, feminists and cultural liberals are very powerful."

Wilson said he doubted Clinton's comments would have much impact on anti-abortion voters unless they were coupled with substantive changes such as a greater receptivity to restrictions on abortion or judicial nominees with such views.

Anti-abortion leaders agreed. "There's an old African proverb: 'Tell me and I'll listen, show me and I'll believe,'" said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Molestation Trial of Ex-Priest Begins

By Elizabeth Mehren
Los Angeles Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- The trial of Paul Shanley, one of the most notorious figures in the Boston clerical abuse scandal, began here Tuesday with the prosecution invoking lost innocence and the defense explaining the case as one of faulty memory.

Shanley's accuser -- a man now 27 years old -- has said that between 1983 and 1989, the priest raped and assaulted him at a church in nearby Newton, Mass. If convicted, Shanley could face life in prison.

In her opening statement, prosecutor Lynn Rooney showed a picture of the accuser as a smiling 6-year-old and asked the jury to imagine that the year was 1983.

"This boy ... sits in his Sunday school class at St. Jean's church," Rooney began. "He is waiting, dreading, afraid. He knows the priest will come. And so he does, week after week."

But Shanley's lawyer countered that the accuser's recollections were inconsistent and "orchestrated by the personal injury lawyers" who last year won an $85 million settlement from the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Boston for hundreds of alleged abuse victims.

"This case is about two things: old memories and really, really old memories," Frank Mondano said. The defense lawyer noted that Shanley's accuser, who has asked not to be named in the media, received $500,000 in the settlement.

Shanley, who turned 74 Tuesday, is charged with a total of six counts of child rape and indecent assault and battery on a child. The slender figure, with wispy gray hair and double hearing aids, bore little resemblance to the popular Boston street priest who once roared around the city on a motorcycle, clad in blue jeans. Having built a ministry for troubled youth, he was beloved by many in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

But when the clerical abuse scandal erupted here three years ago, Shanley became the target of public outrage.

Formerly confidential documents showed that church authorities knew of allegations against Shanley from as far back as 1967. Rather than removing him from duties involving contact with children, officials transferred him from parish to parish.

With the approval of Boston church leaders, Shanley went to a parish in San Bernardino, Calif., in the early 1990s. Retired, he was living in San Diego when he was arrested in May 2003.

Shanley was defrocked by the Vatican last year.

Scores of Boston priests were accused of being pedophiles in a scandal that led to the resignation of Cardinal Bernard Law. Most evaded criminal trials because their alleged offenses occurred so long ago that they could not be prosecuted.

But prosecutors in this case maintain that the clock stopped on the state's 15-year statute of limitations when Shanley moved from Massachusetts to California in 1990.

Most of Tuesday's witnesses were Boston-area priests who corresponded with Shanley while he was living out of state.

Shanley's accuser is scheduled to testify Wednesday.

Three other complainants dropped out of the case rather than face what is expected to be aggressive cross-examination by Shanley's defense team.

Mondano said he would call experts in "disassociative amnesia" -- or repressed memory -- to discredit the accuser's recollections about his alleged abuse.

7th Annual Dining Etiquette

Each spring, about 100 students join together in Scanlon Banquet Hall, wearing their best, to brush up on their fine dining skills at the annual Dining Etiquette Dinner. For a low cost, students are treated to a 7-course meal, and learn how to get ahead when dining with prospective employers. On February 24 of this year, Dining Etiquette will once again feature etiquette expert Carol A. McGuiggan to teach the dos and don'ts of dining. In the 7th year of the dinner, sponsored by Career Services and Residential Life, the program has always sold out. McGuiggan offers tips that can be helpful in any interview. Students, especially juniors and seniors about to enter internships or the workforce, are strongly encouraged to attend this enlightening event. For tickets and other information, call Career Services at X5206 or stop by in the Lammers Hall Annex.

OPINION

Irrelevant fears

"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice Columnist

It's a strange thing, I realized, to look back on the evolution of our relationship with terrorism, as a concept, over the last demidecade.

September 11th was a tragedy that claimed the lives of three thousand people and caused damage to the economy only rivaled by the incompetence of the man in office when it happened. But, just to keep things in perspective, five times as many Americans were killed by other Americans that year. I'm just saying.

It's all a numbers game, which is awful, but we have no better way of measuring threat. We put more time and money towards things that affect large numbers of people. We don't spend much time fighting a "War on Invertebrates" because jellyfish don't kill all that many people; not because we're okay with jellyfish killing our citizens.

Add to this now the frightening reality of 9/11: it was so simple. A handful of guys, box cutters, and a couple cell phones is all that it really took. Some piloting experience and fake IDs? Hardly a Machiavellian plot rich with subtly. Nothing we've done, no security measures we've instituted can protect us against that.

The thing that's preventing another 9/11 from happening is, strangely, that 9/11 happened in the first place. If ten guys jump up on a plane waving plastic knives around tomorrow, all the passengers are going to jump them. The pilots will not let them in the cockpit, because they know what to expect. No one is going to recreate that nightmare. In the words of our own antichrist of a puppet dictator: "Fool me once, shame on... shame on you. Fool me... you can't get fooled again." So we worry about the unforeseen.

But once again I bring up the question of proportionality. Terrorism has claimed 3,000 American lives in the last five years. Civilian homicide has claimed roughly 70,000 American lives in the last five years. Cancer killed roughly 550,000 people in 2002 alone. Between 2000-2005, we're looking at roughly 2.5 million cancer deaths.

"September 11th didn't change the world; our reaction to September 11th changed the world."

-Ben Gaines

So where's this "terror threat" that we hear about every time Bush's numbers are down? Look above, people. We'd have to suffer a 9/11 scale attack every few months for our terrorism fatalities to rival the number of firearms deaths in this country. We'd have to have a 9/11 every few days to lose as many people as we lose to cancer.

September 11th didn't change the world; our reaction to September 11th changed that world. Justified or not, our invading Iraq changed how the world thought about America, and probably made America a much bigger target. Still, despite all this, we have so much less to fear from a terrorist than we do from an armed American.

There are terrorists in the world, yes. They don't like us, yes. But could we please stop giving these people so much more political significance than we give the lives of our countrymen?

To vote or not to vote

"A Nickel's Worth"
By Bob McDonald
Voice Columnist

Ever since citizens were granted the right to vote, political scientists have been trying to figure out why people choose not to exercise their right to do so. There are many reasons for this. For some, voting is simply impossible. Work, family, and health-related demands simply prevent citizens from getting to the polls.

For others, not voting is a choice. Some choose not to vote as a form of protest against the candidates, whom they may view as too similar. Others may take the unfortunate view that their vote, like a drop of water in a vast ocean, will not make a difference in the outcome of an election. Still others feel that the outcome of such elections may best be left to others who are more informed and more involved in the process.

One's view on low voter turn out is strongly related to who one views the act of casting a ballot. Many, predominately older, Americans view the act of voting as a responsibility that arises from living in a democracy. For them, voting is a duty that must be fulfilled. Their argument makes a good point, for a democratic-republic without participation is lost. To borrow an overused phrase from out armed forces, freedom is not free. Occasionally, one is required to get off the couch and do something for their country. If one is not ready to jump in a foxhole, the least they could do is fill out a piece of paper every four years (for extra credit try voting in the Congressional, state, and local elections as well).

The other view is that voting is an individual choice and act. This is the position most often taken by younger Americans. Like the previous group, they also present a fairly valid argument. Living in a free society means that they are not required to take part in such acts if they do not want to do so. To them, the act of not voting can be just as powerful as casting a ballot.

Regardless of one's views on what voting means, political scholars have made many suggestions as to how voter turnout can be increased. Actions taken to date have had mixed results. For example, the Motor-Voter Act, passed under President Clinton, dramatically increased the number of registered voters, but still did not bring more people out to the polls. Many other suggestions, such as making Election Day a national holiday, have their merits, but are unlikely to be implemented in the near future.

The latest proposal to be thrown into the ring was made by State Senator Brian A. Joyce, a Milton Democrat. His suggestion is that the state rewards those Massachusetts residents who vote in a general election with a $25 tax credit. While his efforts to improve voter turn out should be commended, his proposal should be shredded.

Voting is a choice, and it should be a choice motivated by political reasoning, not the desire for monetary rewards. Too many people already vote for the wrong reasons, e.g. in the last election one survey purportedly asked which candidate with whom the voter would rather have a beer. Adding the opportunity to save a view bucks will only exacerbate this situation. I would rather see the voter turnout drop another ten points that know that the ten percent increase is do to people simply voting for the first candidate listed so they can get their tax write off. Paying people to vote is illegal for candidates and thus should be illegal for the state as well. Voting for monetary rewards will not solve the problem of low voter turnout; it will only degrade the spirit of democracy.

Tsunami Relief Benefit Dance Party

February 11, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Third World Room
$2 for WSC students
$3 otherwise

Baked goods and beverages will be served

100% of the proceeds go to Tsunami Relief Aid

The Voice

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The Voice Publication Policy

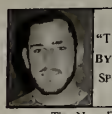
Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Just another win



"This Owl's Howl"
By John Deschenes
Sports Columnist

The New England Patriots went into Pittsburgh and defeated the Steelers in the AFC championship game for the second time in four seasons. With the win the Patriots will be looking to win their third Super Bowl in four seasons on Sunday February 6th. It was just another win, right?

New England sports fans have been spoiled in recent years, especially by the Patriots. I sometimes think we take for granted all the hard work put in by the players, coaches, and ownership. I guess it is understandable though, we just expect them to win. What's wrong with having high expectations? Nothing's wrong with it, it is a sign that the New England Patriots are the model franchise in the National Football League and maybe all of sports.

We have an owner who has resurrected the franchise, went out of his way to make sure Bill Belichick was the coach, and built a brand new, state of the art stadium. Bob Kraft even contemplated moving the Patriots to Hartford, but never pulled the trigger. Kraft learned from his mistakes in dealing with Bill Parcells, and has done things the right way ever since. Hey, that's part of life; you learn from your mistakes and move on.

We have a coach who was always highly thought of as a defensive coordinator, but was run out of Cleveland as a head coach. Bill Belichick has emerged as the best coach in the NFL today and one of the best coaches EVER. He isn't flashy and he isn't a media darling, but he is a winner. That is all I care about. He knows what he is doing and trusts his players to go out there and execute the game plan. In return, his players trust his game plan and respect him enough to go out there week after week and execute the game plan perfectly. It's funny how that works, eh?

The Patriots epitomize what a team should be. They only have four players going to the Pro-Bowl and no one player is bigger than the team. If a player decides he is bigger than the team or that he doesn't want to follow the plan, that's fine. That player won't be in a Patriots uniform for long, no matter how good said player is. Tom Brady gets most of the attention, but he doesn't run with it. He takes it all in and acts in a mature manner. He'll be the first to tell you that he is just another piece of the puzzle. Corey Dillon? I heard people saying he was going to be a cancer in the locker room...how's that prediction working out for you?

Just look at what the Patriots have done without their two starting cornerbacks and all-pro Richard Seymour. They held the league's best offense to a field goal. ONE field goal. Then you look at the Patriots offense. There is one pro-bowler, Tom Brady. This "mediocre" offense only put up 41 points on the league's best defense! It truly is amazing.

The Patriots just embarrassed a 16-1 team on their home field for crying out loud. The Steelers were on a 15 game winning streak too and it just didn't matter. All I heard was how the Patriots would finally meet their match because the Steelers were a more "physical" football team. If you believed this you were hypnotized by the national media. Did you honestly fear Jerome Bettis? What has this guy ever done in a big game to strike fear into anybody? "The Bus" had only 64 yards rushing on Sunday, but he did consistently run his mouth during the game. I guess that's the motto of Bill Cowher and the Steelers; if you can't beat them, talk more trash than them.

Did someone forget to tell Plaxico Burress that the game started at 6:30? Did he think it was a Monday night game or something? Actually, I think I saw him on the sideline taking notes on how to be a clutch receiver. He did this by watching Deion Branch and David Givens.

I'm not going to blame Ben Roethlisberger for this either. You live by the rookie quarterback; you die by the rookie quarterback. It was pretty obvious to me that Big Ben's thumb wasn't right. He didn't get a lot of support from his teammates, not that it would have mattered. Roethlisberger could have had his best game as a pro and it wouldn't have mattered. Tom Brady and the Patriots would have found a way to win. They always do. It just wasn't meant to be for the Steelers.

Something has to be said about Bill Cowher. I respect the guy, but something isn't right. He is now 1-4 in AFC championship games, with all four losses coming at home. For those of you who remember, the Colts were a dropped Hail Mary away from beating the Steelers in the only AFC championship game that Cowher has won. Kicking a field goal on 4th and goal from inside the five yard line, trailing by two touchdowns in the 4th quarter? You deserve to lose if you make a decision like that.

The Patriots will be heading to Jacksonville to take on the JVC champions, the Philadelphia Eagles. That would be the Junior Varsity Conference. I was glad to see the Eagles finally make it to the Super Bowl because I like Donovan McNabb and Andy Reid. Are they a team of destiny? I'm sure Philly fans think so, but I don't. They've had a great run under Reid and are a formidable opponent, but that's it. There is only so much you can do when the other team is just flat-out better than you are.

Letter to the Editors

To the Campus Community:

We are in the middle (half way through the schedule of work) of a large undertaking to convert the old "Nest" and "Country Store" areas in the Campus Center into a Jazzman's Café (Coffee House) for the Campus Community. However, in doing so we know we are creating some interference with classes and aetivities in Ely Hall. We are approximately 3-4 weeks from project completion. In the meantime, there will continue to be some noise, smells, and just plain interference/inconvenience with the normal happenings in the Campus Center and the activities in Ely Hall.

We ask for your patience and understanding (We know it is hard to do) for a while longer. We think the new Jazzman's Café will be worth the wait.

The Voice

Is having it's second semester General Interest Meeting on Wednesday February 2 at 7 p.m. in our office located in Ely C-248.

Reporters
Photographers
Columnists
Editors

All are welcome
No experience necessary
We are desperate

Surgery, cont.

up from her mother. Instead of finding the usual pennies and perhaps maybe a nickel, she spotted a CD, covered by ice and what looked to be spilt coffee. She could see that the color of the CD was purple and pink. On closer inspection, she realized that it was the No Doubt CD "Return of Saturn." She opened her door and pulled the CD from the frozen ground. No Doubt was one of her favorite bands growing up, and even though she owned this particular CD, it was scratched beyond any working condition. This newly found CD, however, was in perfect condition. Jen smiled to herself. There are hundreds of thousands of CDs in the world, and she found one by her first favorite band. She took this as a message, a sign of good luck. In only seven days she would experience plastic surgery head-on and hopefully have no regrets.

The last seven days included a lot of not thinking about it, not talking about it and overall denial that it was about to occur, Jen stated. She had decided long before that she would not dwell on the actions of an event she could not predict.

"I decided that worrying about something that I had no idea would be like wasn't worth my time."

On December 27th, Jen spent the afternoon working. Her boss occasionally razzed her about her looking nervous, even though Jen assured her she wasn't. Out of work by 8:30 p.m. that night, Jen spent a quiet night at home.

She was not allowed to take any food or drink, including water, until after her surgery. Around 11:30 p.m. that night, she drank half a liter of seltzer water to make sure she wouldn't wake up thirsty.

After a night of light but quiet sleep, Jen woke up that morning feeling relaxed, but a little apprehensive. Her boyfriend Mark would be arriving at her house around 9:45 a.m., in order to be on time for pre-surgery, which was at 11:15 a.m. Jen dressed herself in gray Old Navy sweatpants and a large blue tee-shirt, seeing as though she was advised to wear comfortable clothing.

"I sat on the couch that morning and talked with my sister a little. She asked if I was excited and I said no. I would be excited after I woke up and knew it was all over."

Jen left for the hospital with her boyfriend Mark, while mother followed behind in her Buick around 10:45 a.m. But before she left, she made sure that Mark had grabbed the caramel-colored teddy bear that she named Calvin that he had given to her for Christmas. She wanted it there when she woke up, as a comfort. It was a twenty minute drive to the surgical suite, in Mark's bumpy green SUV.

"Jen looked out the window a lot and was quiet. She was getting prepared, mentally, at least," said Mark.

Jen recalls cracking jokes about making a pit stop at Dunkin Donuts and having a quick snack before they put her under. Nervous laughter was all she seemed to have left at this point.

They arrived at 11:15 a.m., and parked in front of the surgical suite. Jen's mother pulled in right after. Walking towards the building, her mother asked if she was truly ready for this experience.

"Yes," she said walking through the automatic doors. "I've been ready for years."

Upon entering the suite, you are greeted by a newly renovated waiting room, with a large stone waterfall in the right hand corner. Plush chairs and magazines looked inviting. Jen went directly into the sign-in area, adjacent to the waiting room. An older woman punched a few pieces of information into a computer, including Jen's name and birthday. The woman then told her to walk straight down the hall into the the after-surgery recovery room. Another middle-aged blonde nurse with large glasses greeted them and escorted them into a small room. A bed sat in the middle of the floor, lined with white sheets and a thin white blanket. A tall built-in closet stood to the left. The nurse told Jen to take off all her clothing, put on a Johnny and that she would be back to insert an IV into her hand after she was ready. It wasn't until then, facing the gowns, socks and bed that Jen started to get nervous.

"In fact, while I was putting on the gown, I started to cry and just hugged Mark. I think it finally hit me what was going on just then."

After Jen got situated, she laid down on the hospital bed and talked with her mother and Mark for a while about random things, such as the medicine smell in the air, other people walking by the room and what the nurse would tell her. All the small talk was to her calm her heightened nerves.

The nurse came back with a small red container which held needles, gauze, and other equipment used to administer IVs. Jen is not a big fan of needles. She had Mark come over and hold her hand while the nurse first injected the area on the top of her hand with novacane in order to make it numb. Jen felt a prick, then a burning sensation throughout her hand. She squeezed Mark's hand tightly. The nurse then proceeded to insert the IV.

"That I didn't feel at all."

Afterwards, the nurse then started to explain what was going to be happening. The doctor would be expected out of surgery sooner than anticipated, so she would get rolling pretty soon. She talked calmly, making sure to reassure Jen every opportunity she got.

"She made it seem like it wasn't a big deal and that I would be up, around and feeling okay by late that afternoon. This was somewhat reassuring and I began to relax."

Dr. Russolillo was just coming out of his first surgical procedure around 12:20 and made his way into Jen's room. Still in scrubs from the last surgery, he said hello to everyone in the room but quickly told Jen to undress so he could mark her body.

"He marked me with X's and lines and D's, so he knew where to make what incision. I looked like a game of 'Tic-Tac-Toe' by the time he was done. He also assured me that I would be up and around within a few hours after he had finished."

He asked Jen if she had any remaining questions.

"I asked him when I could shower. He told me in three days, but to make sure the water wasn't too hot, seeing as though my stomach would be numb for a long time after. I also asked when I could start working out again. He told me three weeks."

Jen laid back down on the bed and the nurse told her it was time to go. This was at 12:30 p.m.

She then said her goodbyes to everyone around her while they wheeled her away to the OR.

A different nurse, one with long, dark hair tied in a neat bun and round glasses wheeled her into the room. At this point, Jen could not see much around her, seeing as though she had to take her contact lenses out before she left the recovery room. She had made mention to the nurse that she couldn't see too much. The nurse, being a rather large woman, responded with "Honey, if you can't even see me, then you've got major problems." This bit of comic relief settled Jen.

A very large, shiny room with huge circular, colored lights hung over the bed Jen was placed on. Everything seemed sterile and organized. Looking to her left, she saw a large table in which another nurse in scrubs was attending to, placing instruments out on a large white towel.

"From what I can remember it was a warm bed. They had mentioned they set a heated blanket down for me. I remember looking behind me and seeing the anesthesiologist. He introduced himself to me, and began to hook-up a new IV to my hand. This was the sleep juice."

The conversation around Jen continued for only a short time after. The last thing she remembers is gazing up at the large, colored lights and noticed they began to get wavy.

"And then I was out."

Look for part 3 in next week's issue

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Visit the Webster Theater online at www.websterthe-ater.com

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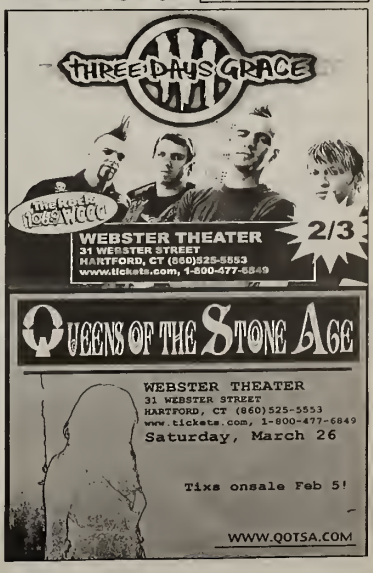


Arts & Entertainment

Backstate with Killswitch Engage

BY SKOT PIERCE
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

Westfield natives Killswitch Engage have recently released their second major-label record, "The End Of Heartache" on Roadrunner Records. When they stopped to play at the Worcester Palladium on Saturday, Nov. 13, I jumped at the chance for an interview. They were on tour with Slayer and Mastodon as a part of the Jagermeister Music Tour. Here are2 a few of the questions that I asked Justin Foley, the drummer, that night

Pierce: Alright, I'm here with Justin, from Killswitch Engage. How's everything going?

Foley: Pretty good.

Pierce: What's it like touring with Slayer, and Mastodon?

Foley: It's pretty cool, ya know? Slayer's that band that's been around for a long time that everybody likes, and everybody cites as an influence. So to share a stage with them is a pretty nice opportunity.

Pierce: What are the feelings amongst the band on the new album?

Foley: I dunno, we like it? (Laughs) It's a good album.

Pierce: I know there are some bands where one of the members would have had to sacrifice [illegible] favorite song because it didn't necessarily fit in with the feel of the rest of the album. Did anything like that happen?

Foley: No, in fact my favorite song made it on the album just at the very end.

Pierce: Which song is that?

Foley: Rose of Sharyn, almost didn't make the record, but it did, so it's kind of backwards.

File Photo

A promo shot of Killswitch Engage. Drummer, Foley, is pictured at far right.

Pierce: How does it feel to go from your other band, Blood Has Been Shed, into Killswitch Engage and to juggle both of them?

Foley: It's great. It's really cool. Ya know, it's definitely a lot different in Killswitch, with everybody that's involved in the band from label to all the other things. It's just a much larger-scale thing. But you, know, when it all comes down to it, we're still on a stage playing songs. As long as we're on stage, it's great.

Pierce: Is it difficult to play some of Killswitch's older songs?

Foley: Well, I dunno about difficult. I would say I feel I've got a good grasp on them now. I always felt like I was playing someone else's songs, but eventually, after a year of it, I finally feel it's more like my songs, so to speak.

Pierce: What got you into playing metal?

Foley: I had started playing metal when I was young and I hadn't been exposed to many other things so, because it was there, more than anything else, really. The energy of the music, really, will always be with me.

Pierce: Were there any bands that influenced you?

Foley: Definitely, Slayer's one of them. Led Zepplin was the first one; they can rock with the best of them. And Rush was a huge one for me, too.

Pierce: Any final comments, final thoughts?

Foley: "Final Thoughts", that was an Obituary song, wasn't it? I dunno, "Don't stop rockin'". And "What Would Homer Do?"

Pierce: That's a good one, well, thank you.

America, the book review

BY SARAH CAGAN
A&E EDITOR

If you are a history buff who thrives on satire, then America (the book) with Jon Stewart, of the Daily Show should be first on your "to read" list. Even if history is to passé for you, you can still appreciate the dirty jokes and the skewed comedic take on American society. Who doesn't appreciate low blows to the government aptly paired with toilet humor? The intriguing quality of this book is that to get most of the jokes you have to know a decent amount of history, yet there is not a tedious page in the text.

The set up of this book is similar to that of a high school textbook, including discussion questions and classroom activities; however, this is where the similarities end. Some examples of the discussion questions would be: "what is the ideological difference between democracy and cannibalism?" Or "which would you rather see getting made: sausage or laws?" And if these don't amuse you then you can always try out the classroom activities such as "Lose Hope," or one of my personal favorites, "Hold a mock election. If you can't do this, then mock a real election."

Throughout the book there are witty excerpts in the margins, be sure not to miss those. The only criticism that I could make about this book is that there are so many distractions while reading. Riddlin might be necessary for those who are weak in the focus arena. Of course half the fun of the transcript is the random quirks shoved between the lines. This is what makes you start reading and not want to put it down until forced to do so (or upon completion).

The book begins with an introduction to democracy, and then walks you through the initiation and "progress" of American government. Of course none of it is serious, hence the book's appeal. For example, take the forward, it was written by Thomas Jefferson (for your information he is a dead president) whose postscript contained comments about Halle Berry and her marital status. While reading this book you feel as if you are in a room full of your best inebriated friends' slandering historical politics. Needless to say it is a blast to read.

America (the book) is full of surprises. There are games, posters and much more. All of which contain raunchy references and adult content, though the phrase mature would not be appropriate in this context. Many of the jokes are offensive but the writers made sure not to discriminate, offending every possible group instead of just one. Towards the end of the book there is a brief overview of the rest of the world, you know, all the places that are not the United States. In these sections the authors' sum up different aspects of these other cultures with sarcasm and stereotypes. Of course, there is no need to fret; they saved the most disparaging remarks for good ol' U-S-of A.

After you finish the book there is a certificate of completion, and a list of spoof reading material from the crew of The Daily Show. Subsequent to reading this book you are sure to want more. People who are truly into this comedic style should also check out Naked Pictures of Famous People by Jon Stewart (Sorry folks no actual pictures in this one), which has the same flavor with a little more intellectual kick to it. All in all, America (the book) kept me highly amused from beginning to end, which is more then I can say for America (the country).

Arno Maris gallery may relocate

BY JASON YOUNG AND MEGAN GALAGHER
VOICE REPORTERS

A bookstore is intended to occupy the current Arno Maris Gallery space in the Ely Library by the start of the 2005 fall semester.

There is some concern amongst faculty in the Westfield State College Art Department.

"Everybody knows that there is going to be a bookstore," said Prof. Courtney Hayes-Sturgeon of the Art Department. "But nobody knows where the gallery is going to be."

"There is a rumor that we are going to move into where the bookstore is now," said Prof. Gerald Wyse. "But that is only a rumor."

Before an official art gallery opened on campus, the hallway in the Parenzo building was dedicated to displaying artwork. Eventually the Art Department has allotted space in the Ely Campus Center basement.

In 1986, the Ely Gallery moved to its current space and was renamed the Arno Maris Gallery. It was named after Arno Maris, a longtime chair of the Art Department.

"There is a rumor that we are going to move into where the bookstore is now, but that is only a rumor."

-Prof. Gerald Wyse

The gallery hosts at least five exhibitions each year. The annual student show is one of its most anticipated events.

"I think that the teachers know that there is a lot of talent here and they want students to know that that talent is supported," Hayes-Sturgeon said. "It's not just the athletics. There is art and culture in Westfield."

The gallery's current exhibition features crafts from the Hilltown Artisans Guild. The guild is made up of professional artists who live in the "hilltowns" of Western Massachusetts.

The exhibition will be on display through March 6. Gallery hours are 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The Arno Maris Gallery at Westfield State College is located to the right of the stack elevator in the Ely Library.

A piercing tale

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

Finally, the long-awaited second installment of my piercing adventures has arrived! Unfortunately, I didn't get anything as drastic as my penis pierced this time, however, I'm sure that most of you won't be getting your penises pierced anyway. This time, I have an eyebrow review for you. Not only did I get a different piercing, I also went to a new piercing parlor, so pay attention! You don't want to be mutilated because you went to the wrong piercing parlor!

Once again, I had some extra money ($45 at Pierce This 2 in Greenfield) and a need to have a needle inserted through my skin. Originally, I had planned to get my tongue re-pierced, but I'll be honest with you; my brother got his nipples pierced there, and they did a horrible job. I wouldn't recommend getting any major body piercing at this place.

I stepped into the piercing parlor, and a large man with several piercings stepped out and asked if he could help me. I told him that I wanted to get my eyebrow pierced and within five minutes I had signed the waiver form (saying that if I did not follow the aftercare instructions he could not be held responsible) and was sitting in the operating chair waiting to be pierced.

Of high concern to me was the fact that I had had my eyebrow pierced two times prior to this occasion and as a result I have two separate sets of scar tissue in my eyebrow. Piercing through scar tissue can be a hassle, and even more importantly can be very painful. I voiced this concern to the man and he assured me that he would pierce between, the scar tissues so as to avert any more pain than necessary.

Something all of you should remember when going to get a piercing is that it is a form of body modification. This means that whatever the piercer does is entirely up to you. It is important to be vocal with your piercer and share with them any concerns you may have and tell them what "effect" you are going for.

A good example of this is what happened with my eyebrow. It would be easier for a piercer to just pierce to either side of the scar tissue, however, the reason I have had two eyebrow piercings in pretty much the same spot is because that is where I like it. That is where I feel it best accentuates my facial features. These people may seem intimidating, but for the most part they are very helpful and will do their best to address any concerns you may have (depending, of course, entirely on where you choose to get pierced).

-Photo by Lisandra Billings

A close-up of Pete's newly pierced eyebrow. Taken nine das after being pierced. How quickly it heals!

So, there I sat, while the piercing guy grabbed the tools of his trade (a clamp, a needle, a hoop, some rubbing alcohol pads, a marker, and Bacitracin). He sat on a stool in front of me and rubbed my eyebrow with the alcohol pad to sterilize the area. Next, he marked the spots of entry and exit on my eyebrow. He then takes the clamp and attaches it to my eyebrow and reaches over for the needle, which has Bacitracin on its tip. Once again, the breathing method is enacted; one breath, two breaths, three breaths, exhale, and ooh! There we go. Now hold still, while he attaches the hoop to the needle and slides it down, attaching it to the eyebrow. Next he opens the hoop with his pliers, inserts the ball, and closes it back up.

I have come to view the eyebrow piercing almost the same as I would an ear piercing (with the exception that I hardly consider ear piercings to be "body piercings"). It is a simple, relatively painless procedure and is only slightly bloody in nature. This is a great piercing for first timers because it introduces you to the shock of seeing someone coming at you with a needle and introduces you to the pain that comes with it. Always important to consider is where you get pierced. In terms of friendly service and expertise, the best place to go around here is still Lucky's Tattoo and Piercing Emporium in Northampton. If you don't believe me, ask the people at Elm Street Tattoos where they would recommend you get pierced!

WSC student struggles to overcome painful addiction

Fashion Files

By: Lisandra Billings

Imagine your most prized possession, the one thing that you're almost positive you could neither live nor breathe without. How horrified would you be if you lost that, if you were suddenly forced into an existence devoid of the one thing that you needed more than anything else? For me, that nightmare came true this weekend.

It was Saturday night in the midst of the blizzard when I began unpacking from an adventure with some friends in Framingham the night before. As I emptied my overnight bag out on to my bed a slight panic came over me as I realized something wasn't right, something was missing.

And then it hit me like a ton of bricks...I had lost my make-up bag.

Not just any make-up bag, but THE make-up bag. I carried everything in this bag, everything essential to every day life, and the thought of having to live without it...unbearable. It was at about this time that I realized I was no longer standing near my bed, I had dropped to the ground and was now having a full-fledged panic attack.

As my roommate stared quizzically, I proceeded to lie on the floor, pounding my fists and screaming, for a good two minutes. It reminded me of my last tantrum...I was seven and didn't want to eat the peas my mother had placed on the plate in front of me. Though traumatizing, that moment was nothing compared to the anguish I felt over the loss of my most trusted companion.

After blubbering on for a few more minutes, I pulled myself together. I tried thinking logically. "It's not really the end of the world," I thought to myself. "You can just replace the make-up you lost."

The idea seemed like a good one...until I realized that replacing all of the contents of that bag would easily cost over $100, money I simply did not have to spare seeing as I had just handed over $300 to the campus bookstore.

I sat debating in agony over what I would possibly do, for over an hour. I could simply sell back a couple of books, surely I didn't actually need some of the books professors assigned. Maybe I could call my parents, pleading starvation, and beg them to send money for food and just use the money to buy a few cosmetic essentials. Or even better, maybe I could actually not spend any money on food, gas or entertainment for a month...who needs a life anyways?

It was at this point that I realized I had a huge problem. I was a make-up junkie.

The first step to recovery is admitting that you have a problem. Of course I went through anger, denial and guilt as well...but after all of this comes acceptance. There was nothing else left to do but quit. No foundation, no mascaras, no eyeliners, bronzers or glosses...I needed to quit cold turkey.

I felt the first pain of my decision the following morning after I had taken a shower. This was usually the point where I would sit in front of my vanity mirror and cake on three layers of foundation, two different kinds of blush, eye pencils, lip pencils, brow pencils...all in all a process that took no less than forty minutes.

-File Photo

Make-up products similar to the ones pictured above aren't as harmless as they seem. Read about one girls struggle to kick a bad habit in order to put a little more money in her pocket and prevent bad skin.

Quite conscious of the empty spot on my shelf where my make-up bag once rested, I sat down to begin my new morning ritual, a bit of moisturizer and some chap stick. After blow-drying my hair, I was ready in less than ten minutes, but it just didn't seem right.

I headed out to my classes feeling somewhat naked and quite insecure. It's not that I wanted to impress others by painting on a face that I thought more acceptable than my own, most people never even knew that I wore make-up. It was something I kept to myself and did for entirely for me...something that I missed more than anything.

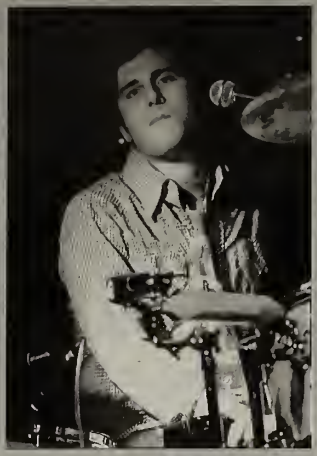
I needed a fix and I needed it bad.

I realized now that it was almost impossible to quit without some sort of support, smokers get nicotine patches, alcoholics have A.A. meeting, and I needed something too. I decided that quitting cold turkey hardly ever works at all and while make-up was a bad habit I would have to break, I shouldn't have to do it all at once. It's not like I was the only one who used it, plenty of women and men use make-up in moderation and have had no problems...

Moderation. That was the key. I had had it all wrong, the answer wasn't to quit using make-up entirely but to cut back, using only the essentials, the few things you truly cannot live without. Surely all that other junk was unnecessary, just dangerous toxins that had no purpose other than to clog my pores.

i made a list, the few items I truly felt I could use safely and sparingly without fear of overdose or bad skin. Accompanied by a trusted friend, recruited to make sure I bought only what I needed, I headed to Walmart with only $30 in my pocket, just enough to buy what was on the list. I shopped quickly, careful to avoid prolonged exposure to the things I had once loved so dear, and when I reached the checkout and the cashier asked "Would that be all?" I smiled and proudly said, "Yes!"

It's only been a few days since my make-up transformation, but already I feel much better. Sure I have the moments where all I need more than anything is a good coat of bronzer, but I eat a piece of chocolate and wait it out until the craving passes. I can't say that I'll never touch another tube of lipstick again, who's to say what I'll look like when I'm fifty? I'm just going to have to take it one day at a time until I'm finally comfortable in my own skin.

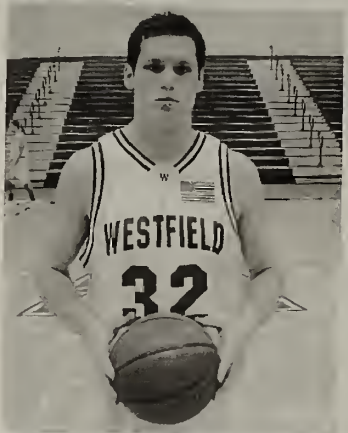


Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers

Comedien Justin McKinney

All photos by: Mike Coughlin

Elaine Penn, left, presented a workshop entitled "What Makes a Leader" to Westfield State College varsity sports team captains and members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) on Monday, Jan. 24. Later that evening she gave a keynote address to all student-athletes entitled "Diversity and Community Building". Both workshops were well received by varsity athletes. Penn serves as director of special projects at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She has produced five documentaries about environmental and social issues, well as conducting leadership training for members of the conference's student-athlete advisory council. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*



Conference Player of the Week

In a week of strong performances in the Mass. State Conference, Westfield State's Vaso Jaukovic distinguished himself by totaling 54 points and 12 rebounds for the Owls. He scored a game-best 28 points while shooting 11 for 19 from the field and connecting on 4 of 5 three-point attempts in a 90-82 loss at Salem State. Jaukovic then erupted for a game-high 26 points as Westfield evened its MASCAC record at 2-2 with a 85-64 win against Fitchburg State. He continued his torrid shooting by hitting 10 of 15 field goal attempts versus the Falcons. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Jaukovic Leads Owls To Victory

Senior forward Vaso Jaukovic (Montenegro, Serbia) scored a game-high 26 points to lead Westfield State to an 85-64 Mass. State Conference victory over Fitchburg .

The Owls are 6-7 overall and 2-2 in conference action. Fitchburg dropped to 2-13 and 0-3.

The Owls jumped out to a 42-27 halftime lead as they shot 53 percent from the field, including 6-for-12 from 3-point range. Westfield freshman forward Tony Collier (Colchester, Vt.) was 4-for-5 from beyond the arc in the first half.

Collier finished the game with 15 points. Junior forward James Ogbunzie (Springfield, Mass.) scored 11 points and sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin (Brighton, Mass.) had 10.

Senior forward Rashad Cope (Roxbury, Mass.) had 22 points and nine rebounds for Fitchburg. Sophomore center Nick Smith (Leominster, Mass.) tied his career high with 17 points and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

Fitchburg out rebounded Westfield, 49-34, but finished with 23 turnovers and shot 37 percent from the field.

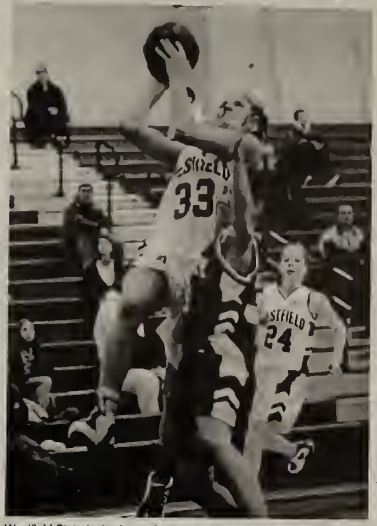
Athletics Director Assumes New Administrative Post

WESTFIELD – After serving the Westfield State College Athletics Department for 32 years - the last 10 as athletics director - Ken Magarian has been selected to work on administrative projects for Student Affairs, among them management work for the Wellness Center and the Ely Campus Center.

The college is beginning a national search for a new athletics director. In the interim, Timothy Murphy, director of Human Resources, has been named interim director of Athletics until the search is completed.

Magarian's wide range of experience may be also used for various athletics-related college projects, since the completion of the Woodward Center academic and athletic complex has brought increased emphasis on the college's athletics program and the Department of Movement Science, Sport and Leisure Studies.

Magarian was part of the team that built the Woodward Center. As a coach, and later as athletics director, Magarian gained experience in many facets of athletics administration, from recruiting players to equipment and facilities management and development. He has been president of the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference, as well as serving on several national committees for the NCAA. He has mixed emotions about leaving Athletics, but looks forward to new and different responsibilities and opportunities within Student Affairs.



Westfield State junior forward Amanda Chapin ranks 12th nationally in NCAA Division 3 in rebounding, averaging 12.3 boards per game. She also leads the Owls in scoring, averaging 11.8 points per game. Westfield's next home game is Tuesday, Feb. 1, when it hosts Bridgewater State at 6:00 p.m. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Women's Basketball

WESTFIELD – Junior forward Jen Fontaine (Dracut, Mass.) led a balanced attack with 11 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and four steals to lead Fitchburg State to a 64-47 Mass. State Conference victory over Westfield State.

The Falcons improved to 12-2 overall and 2-1 in the conference. Westfield drops to 4-9 and 0-4.

A 22-0 scoring spurt in the first half keyed the Falcon victory. Westfield led 13-9 at the 12:34 mark then Fitchburg took a commanding 31-13 lead with 5:06 remaining. The Owls committed 18 turnovers and shot just 25 percent from the field in the first half.

Junior guard Kate Redican (Meriden, Conn.) also scored 11 points for the winners and senior guard Cortney Kelley (Hanson, Mass.) added 10 points. Senior forward Jenn Kirkland (Somerville, Mass.) contributed nine points, 10 rebounds and two blocks.

Westfield freshman guard Betty Dely (Waltham, Mass.) tallied a game-high 15 points and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds. Junior guard Meghan McCarthy (Belchertown, Mass.) scored 10 points.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS 2005

at Westfield State College in the Woodward Center

Feb. 2, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Presented by Westfield State's Student-Athlete Advisory Board with assistance from SGA

- Football Passing Competition
- 3-on-3 Hoop Tournament
- Three Legged Races
- Team Introductions
- Music and DJ
- T-shirts and Prizes
- And Much More!!!

Sign up for 3-on-3 Hoop Tournament in Parenzo Gym Intramurals Office $10 Team Entry Fee

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

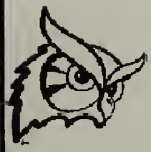
Also check the website for upcoming games!

3 v 3 Basketball Tourney
Football Passing Competition
Three-Legged Races

Hot Shot Competitions
Team Introductions
Prizes & More

MIDNIGHT MADNESS 2005

Wednesday, February 2
Woodward Center
9:00 pm - 1:00 am



3 v 3 Basketball Sign-ups
Parenzo Hall Intramural Office
$10 Team Entry Fee

Deep Thoughts By Jack Handy

"Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?"

"Why are hemorrhoids called 'hemorrhoids' instead of 'assteroids.'"

"Whose cruel idea was it for the word 'lisp' to have an S in it?"

"You know something that would really make me applau? A guy gets stuck in quicksand, then sinks, then suddenly comes shooting out, riding on water skis! How do they do that!?"

"You know one thing that will really make a woman mad? Run up and kick them in the butt! PS- This works on men too!"

"If you're a cowboy and your dragging a man behind you on a horse, I bet it would make you real mad to look back and see the man reading a magazine."

TEAM VOICE!

Photo by Intern Extrodinaire: Bridget Gleason

MISSING

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! IT APPEARS AS THOUGH OUR COMIC ARTISTS HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED! PLEASE HELP US! WE NEED COMICS MORE THAN THE FACULTY NEEDS A CONTRACT! NO REAL ARTISTIC TALENT IS NEEDED, JUST A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR AND THE DEDICATION TO DRAW ONE COMIC A WEEK!

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks

Jan. 31 - The Cookout & Sbaun of the Dead
Feb. 1 - Resident Evil: Apocalypse & Wimbledon
Feb. 2 - Little Black Book & Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
Feb. 3 - Little Black Book & Troy
Feb. 4-6 - Anchorman & Resident Evil: Apocalypse

Attention Students!
Longing for love?
Friendship?
Companionship?
Look for the new personal's box located in the Ely Main Lounge starting this week!

February is Black History Month!

Be sure to pick up a speaker and event schedule in the Ely Main Lounge!

Mon 1/30	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm		
Tue 2/01	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	Men's Basketball Game Against Bridgewater State - WOOD - 8:00pm
Wed 2/02	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm
Thurs 2/03	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Sodexo Specialty Dinner - DC - 4:00pm Movie: "Amistead" - EML - 7:00pm	Mr. Bank's Antique Display - DC - 4:00m
Fri 2/04	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 2/05	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight Men's Basketball @ Worcester State - 4:00pm Women's Basketball @ West. CT State - 1:00pm	Sun 2/06	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X | January 31, 2005 | Issue XIIII

WSC student goes under the knife
pg. 1

Subway gone for good?
pg. 1

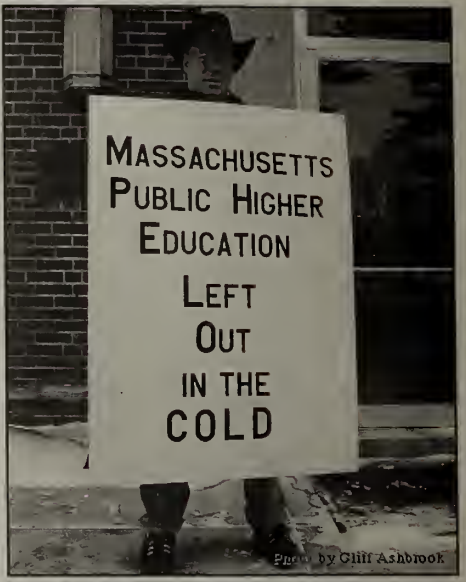


Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

He's not who you think he is An exclusive with "The Duck"
pg. 1

Fleron's new "open-air" office policy
pg. 3

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | February 7, 2005 | Issue XV

Bids high in Courtney Auction

By Brioget Gleason
Voice Intern

DEVER-Tuesday, February 1, The Courtney Hall Council along with the help of the class of 2006, held a Courtney Hall auction from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Dever Auditorium. The event took place in order to raise money for theMake-a-Wish Foundation.

Tim Repucci and Kaitlyn Campbell, who acted as the auctioneers and were also auctioned off, came up with the idea of the Courtney Hall Auction and then brought it to the Courtney Hall Council. Since the class of 2006 was in the process of raising four thousand dollars for Make a Wish by the time they graduate, they agreed on having the auction.

Thirty people were auctioned off in groups of two or three. The bidding began at five dollars and most people were sold for about sixty to eighty dollars. The highest bidders received dinner at restaurants such as Chillis, Ruby Tuesdays, Applebee's, and The Outback.

Sold for the most amount of money were Mike Lawlor and Eddie Paris who went for one hundred thirty seven dol-

Auction-Page 2

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

After much postponement, the Courtney Auction was a success raising over $1,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

New report shows college textbooks cost increasing sharply ahead of inflation

Submitted By Bethaney Shaw
MASSPIRG

College textbook prices have increased at nearly four times the rate of inflation for all finished goods since 1994 and textbook publishers engage in practices that artificially inflate textbook costs, according to a new study by MASSPIRG. With textbook costs already high - an average of $900 a year, or a fifth of tuition at a public four year university - MASSPIRG called on publishers to stop needlessly inflating textbook costs.

The study, which looks at the five most commonly purchased textbooks at 59 universities in every region of the country, was conducted by student volunteers and staff of student PIRG chapters. Among the report's findings:

1. Prices are skyrocketing. Textbook prices are increasing at more than four times the inflation rate for all finished goods, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index. This finding contradicts the publishing industry's assertion that book prices are not going up significantly.

2. New editions are costly. Publishers issue new editions that are often unnecessary, making used books obsolete and forcing students to forgo less expensive used books. A new edition of a textbook will, on average, cost 45% more than a used copy of the previous edition. The price of the average new edition is increasing at twice the

MassPIRG-Page 3

Comfortable in her own skin, part three

By Emily Engel
Editor In Chief

Cont. from last week

Jen woke up knowing some time had past, but she was completely disoriented, and all she could manage to do was cry and hyperventilate.

This is where her troubles began.

"I remember not being in a lot of pain, but feeling more of an intense burning sensation. But because I was so hysterical, the nurses thought I was hurting, so they pumped me *full* of Morphine. Needless to say, I calmed down after about fifteen minutes of being awake. Apparently I had spent forty-five minutes in the recovery room after an hour of surgery. I remember feeling the girdle the doctor had placed around me for the first time."

They wheeled Jen in to the recovery room where she had began this journey.

"Much of this part I don't remember. I knew my family was around me, but I don't remember the conversation. I knew that I felt extremely sick to my stomach though."

After about half an hour of laying down, a nurse tried to get her to stand and walk a little, but it was near impossible, due to the pain in her stomach and the fact that she was completely out of it. She nearly fell over several times.

They put Jen back in bed with a small kidney shaped container, in case she needed to vomit.

"I remember leaning over the bucket at one point, thinking I was going to spew, but instead I burped really loud. I thought that was going to be the end of that. The nurses began to see that I wasn't reacting well to the pain medication they were giving me and decided to ship me off to another part of the recovery ward.

Surgery- Page 9

SGA constitution to be updated

By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

ELY- Junior Delgado, of the Career Services Center, was present at the February 1, 2005 student government meeting. Among the topics covered by Delgado was a Dining Etiquette Program which is to take place on February 24, at 5 p.m. in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. Delgado reported that a seven-course meal would be served and such technicalities as "which fork to use first," would be discussed. For those who are interested in where to put their purse and have an extra five dollars, this

SGA- Page 2

Check out these funny movies

pg. 11

Cut the fat with "The Left Handed Elephant"

pg. 7

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SGA

is the event to attend. Delgado also encourages students to attend three job fairs that will be coming up around April. For more information on the job fairs, go to the Career Service Center website.

Stephanie DeCosta, head of the student government's food committee, reported that many changes are to be taking place in the Dining Commons. Among these changes, will be the addition of mini-marshmallows to accompany the hot chocolate. The acquisition of slushy machines is going a little less than "swimmingly." DeCosta reported to student government that the food services director needs more power sources and water lines before slushy machines can be installed.

The Blue Key Committee was elected at the meeting as well. The purpose of the Blue Key Committee is to nominate students who go above and beyond in the academic community. Two members from each class were nominated to be on the committee. For the class of 2005, the members are Irene Marsinowski and Timothy McDonald. The members for the class of 2006 are Matthew Curren and Alana Signore. The sophomores elected are Amanda Durew and Tiffany Puliafico, and the freshmen elected are Patrick Logan and Sarah Prentice.

Interestingly, due to an amendment pushed through the Student Government Association by the multi-cultural representative, the executive board came to the realization that the entire SGA constitution was "out of date," as President Matt Curren stated. To address this issue, an Ad-Hoc committee was created and is scheduled to have their first meeting this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Spring Break 2005. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com.

WSC Dept. of Public Safety police log 1/24/05 to 1/30/05

DATES	TIMES	INCIDENTS	LOCATION
01/24/05		ND INCIDENTS TD REPDRT	
01/25/05		NO INCIDENTS TO REPORT	
01/26/05		ND INCIDENTS TO REPORT	
01/27/05		NO INCIDENTS TO REPORT	
01/28/05	0851	DDMESTIC DISTURBANCE NDN STUDENT TRESPASSED JUDICIAL REFERRAL INCIDENT # 05-09-OF	CDURTNEY HALL
01/29/05	0005	COLLEGE POLICY VIOL.(ALCOHOL) 1 STUDENT, 7 NDN-STUDENTS JUDICIAL REFERRAL INCIDENT # 05-10-OF	DICKINSDN
01/29/05	0100	NON-STUDENT INTOXICATED MALE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	CHURCH LDT
01/29/05	0112	MALICIDUS DEST.(VANDALISM) DAMAGE TD ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR INCIDENT # 05- 11 -DF	APT. COMPLEX
01/29/05	0156	COLLEGE PDLICY VIOL.(ALCOHDL) JUDICIAL REFERRAL	DAVIS
01/29/05	1712	M/V STOP HEAD LIGHT OUT DP M/V WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE SUMMDNS ISSUED	ATHLETIC CDMP
01/30/05	0223	COLLEGE POLICY VIDL.(DRUGS) DRUG POSSESS CL D A&B DN A POLICE OFFICER STUDENT ARRESTED 05-4-AR	COURTNEY
01/30/05	1508	CDLLEGE POLICY VIOL.(ALCDHOL) 2 STUDENTS, 2 NON-STUDENTS JUDICIAL REFERRAL INCIDENT # 05-13-OF	SCANLON
01/30/05	2237	GENERAL INVESTIGATION TAZER SEIZED FM STUDENT JUDICIAL REFERRAL INCIDENT # 05-14-05	CDURTNEY HALL

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

J.T. Gracessa of Courtney Hall fetches a handsome bid in the benefit auction. All of the proceeds went towards the Make a Wish Foundation.

Auction

lars. The people who bid the most amount of money on Mike and Eddie received four free movie passes along with their dinner date.

At first the council was worried that no one would attend the event due to the continual postponements, but the turnout was better than expected. Their goal was to raise five hundred dollars but they ended up with a total of one thousand two hundred and thirty-nine dollars. Jessie Spano, a freshman of the hall council said, "We are very happy with the results, we more than doubled our goal." Special thanks goes to Jill the Resident Director of Courtney hall and Erin Palmer, president of Courtney Hall, for making the Courtney Hall Auction possible.

Participants in the auction were as follows: Danny DiCamillo, Ryan D'Connell, Diana Williams, Shannon Wilga, JT Graceffa, Matt Madden, Tara P, Jess Hart, Tara Guihan, Blake Coleman, Evan Cullerton, Melissa Derby, Kristin Gorski, Mike Lawlor, Eddie Paris, Alanna Drury, Shawna Meehan, Steph Winn, Tim Drrico, Dave Corney, Micah Coffey, David Hunter, Dionna Barrow, Rachel Sweeny, Eric Clark, Pete Appleby Kaitlyn Campbell, Lisa Rodger, Tar Repucci, and Dave Bergeron.

The Make-a-Wish Foundation is charitable non-profit organization whos purpose is to fulfill wishes for childre approximately two to eighteen years age who have life-threatening disease Proceeds from the foundation fundraisin efforts are used to fulfill children dreams and create lasting memories f the entire family. Dver eighty percent each dollar raised is spent on wish grant ng and related program services. It is th largest wish granting organization wi eighty-one chapters in the United State and twenty-two international chapters.

The foundation was inspired 1980 by the family of a boy who h leukemia and dreamed of becoming police officer for a day. His friends a family made his wish come true by givi him his own helmet, goggles, badge, and regulation uniform made just for him. T boy's mother created Make-a-Wish in h memory to allow other children to live their dreams.

MassPIRG

rate of inflation compared to the previous edition. The survey found price increases as high as 21% between editions, more than 3 times the rate of inflation.

3. Bundling costs a bundle. Publishers increase textbook prices by adding unnecessary bells and whistles – such as CD-ROMs and workbooks, and contrary to industry claims, the cheaper unbundled versions often cannot be found on shelves. The bundled books surveyed were 10% more expensive than their unbundled versions, with examples of price differentials of up to 47%. 50% of all bundled books surveyed did not have an accompanying unbundled version on the shelf.

4. New editions are often unjustified. 76% of the faculty surveyed in PIRG's Fall 2003 study said that new editions were only justified "half the time" or less. Furthermore, 65% of faculty surveyed used these additional items "rarely" or "never". This contradicts the claim made by publishers that faculty demand drives the production of new editions and bundles.

5. American students pay more. Publishers charge American students more for the same textbook than students in other countries:

The books surveyed were 20% cheaper on www.Amazon.co.uk, with examples of books that were more than twice as expensive in the U.S. than in the UK. Even greater disparities in US/overseas prices can be found on some publishers' websites. For example, according to Thomson Learning's website, all of their books found in the survey cost an average of 72% more in the U.S. than in the U.K., Africa and the Middle East.

The survey uncovered a number of particularly egregious examples. One example is Physics for Scientists and Engineers, published by Thomson Learning. First, the 5th edition (issued in 2000) was on the market for just four years before the 6th edition was issued (2004), yet there is little to no substantial difference between the two editions.

The differences that do exist, such as some of the new problem sets and technological tools, could have been easily provided via supplement versus an entirely new edition. Second, according to Thomson Learning's website, the 6th edition sell for $134.96 in the U.S., but only $72.43 to students in the UK, Africa and the Middle East.

"This report confirms my experience that all too often, many publishers use gimmicks rather than solid educational content to inflate textbook costs. The result is diminished access to education for students, especially low income students," said a Westfield State College faculty member.

MASSPIRG has previously called on the publishing industry to adopt "Best Practices" policies which would ensure that publishers keep production and pricing costs as low as possible while maintaining educational value; issue new editions only when there is justifiably new educational content; disclose to the faculty and public all of its products, prices and the length of time that a product is expected to be on the market; and pass the cost savings from online books on to students.

In particular, MASSPIRG asked the Association of American Publishers last year to issue these recommendations to its member companies. To date, the AAP has refused to issue such recommendations. Meanwhile, over 500 mathematics professors from 150 universities called on publisher Thomson Learning to commit to issuing a new edition of its popular Calculus textbook only when there is new information about the field. Thomson has refused this request.

"With more and more evidence coming out about how publishers are gaming the market, you wonder how much longer publishers are going to refuse to act on the problem," said Leon Traynham, MASSPIRG student.

The full report can be viewed at www.MakeTextbooksAffordable.org MASSPIRG is a statewide, student directed and funded environmental and consumer organization with campus chapters at MASS universities around the state.

Voice of the Week

Erin Palmer

Role at WSC: President of Courtney Hall and class of 2006 Publicity Coordinator

Year at WSC: Class of 2006

Favorite part of her job: Doing big planning. "When the idea of the Courtney Hall Auction was brought up, it sounded like a lot of fun."

Thoughts on the Auction: "I was overwhelmed but impressed by the crowd."

Major: Elementary Education with Liberal Studies

Favorite Movie: Tommy Boy

Favorite TV Show: Extreme Homemakeover

Favorite Quote: "Lata Waarrr"

What she wanted to be when she was little: A singer and a teacher

Erin would also like to say, "Thank you to all that supported the class of 2006 and the Hall Council."

Voices Overheard compiled by: Bridget Gleason

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield
115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)
Phone Number: 568-0429
Sundays:
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Commuter Lunch Buffet

All You Can Eat

-Pasta w/ meat sauce
-Salad
-Garlic Bread
-Assorted desserts

Scanlon Banquet Hall
Feb. 16 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Tickets available in Ely 146 until Feb 12

Voices Overheard

If you were drafted tommorow, what would you do?

Carlos Garcia
Mass Comm
Class of 2007

"I'd kill some Iraqis."

Matt Chaplin
Criminal Justice
Class of 2007

"I would go. Preferably with the air-force."

Cassie Gendron
Mathematics
Class of 2005

"Assassinate the President. Just kidding."

Matthew Steele
Regional Planning
Class of 2007

"I'd go 'cause you have to fight for your country."

Voices Overheard compiled by: Amy Cirrone

Looking for a Few Good Books

2005-2006 Campus Book Nominations Sought -

Did you read an interesting book over the winter break? (Or did you intend to?), Have you recently heard about an interesting title that you'd like to read? If so, please let the Campus Book Committee know about it. In each of the past five years, Westfield State College faculty, staff, and students have come together in classrooms, over lunches, and in workshops to discuss a variety of stimulating works.

Now is the time to begin planning for next year, and so the Campus Book Committee welcomes nominations for the 2005-2006 academic year. Over the last five 7 years, the campus community has submitted many wonderful suggestions—ranging from novels such as The Life of Pi to non-fiction investigations such as Fast Food Nation. In fact, it's been very difficult for our committee (made up of faculty and staff from across campus) to pick from among the wide range of titles you've nominated.

Please keep up the good work.So as you peruse bookstores, libraries, and book reviews, please keep your eyes open for works that would generate interesting conversations. The title that you nominate can be non-fiction, fiction, drama, or poetry as long as it would appeal to students deals with matters relevant to a variety of fields and disciplines, is well writtenand is relatively inexpensive.

Although our first five selections were recent publications, the Campus Book can be an older work or a classic as long as it is still in print.

Nominate as many titles as you'd like by sending to me via campus mail the form below. You also can e-mail me suggestions at glayng@wsc.ma.edu. (Contact me, too, if you'd like to serve on the Campus Book Committee--we're always looking for more help.) Thank you all for your continued support

-George Layng, Coordinator.

2005–2006 Campus Book Nomination Form

Your name:

Your campus telephone number or e-mail address:

Title:

Author(s)

Why would this make a good Campus Book?

Election Day Most Violent In Almost Two Years

By Karl Vick
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq--Election day was the most violent day in Iraq since the fall of Baghdad almost two years ago, as insurgents made good on their repeated threats to attack Iraq's polling stations with car bombs, suicide vests, mortars, rockets, small arms fire and grenades in 109 separate attacks, according to U.S. officials.

Across the country, insurgents launched 260 attacks against targets of all kinds, including U.S. military and Iraqi security forces, officials said. Yet the casualty count--45 dead, about 100 wounded--did not rank among the highest one-day totals.

The insurgents' unprecedented effort to sow fear was overshadowed by the determination of multitudes of ordinary Iraqis to vote regardless of the danger, and to the extraordinary effectiveness of the joint Iraqi-U.S. security operation that let them do so.

"The insurgents tried to disrupt this election with the highest level of attacks we have ever seen. They did not succeed," said a U.S. diplomat in Baghdad, who briefed reporters Monday on the condition he not be identified further. "To be blunt, there were very low casualties for the number of attacks.

"This was a terrific security effort, particularly by the Iraqi forces."

The day was not an unqualified success for coalition and Iraqi forces. A British military C-130 cargo plane crashed Sunday afternoon, and on Monday an insurgent group claimed to have shot it down with a missile. The assertion by the group, which identified itself as the 1920 Revolution Brigades, could not immediately be verified. But if accurate, and if the 10 people on board are confirmed dead, the incident would be the deadliest involving a fixed-wing aircraft since the U.S.-led invasion and would dramatically hike the number of foreign military fatalities on election day, which had stood at a single U.S. Marine.

Still, the striking success of election security was the talk of Baghdad on Monday.

The city of 7 million was locked down tight on election day. Car bombers had no chance on streets emptied of every vehicle except the blue-and-white trucks of the Iraqi police and the U.S. patrols that were stationed at every major intersection. Side streets teemed with people walking to polling stations. Children played raucous soccer games on every thoroughfare.

"The insurgents tried to disrupt this election with the highest level of attacks we have ever seen. They did not succeed. To be blunt, there were very low casualties for the number of attacks."

-A U.S. diplomat in Baghdad

Baghdadis said their city on Sunday reminded them of the days immediately after the fall of President Saddam Hussein, only far safer. With Americans almost omnipresent and intently focused on people's behavior, no one dared carry away large sections of the capital's infrastructure as thousands of looters did, unchallenged, in April 2003.

The emphasis this time, however, was on the Iraqi forces. Some 100,000 newly trained Iraqi soldiers and police were on duty over the weekend, supplementing U.S. forces of 150,000. And while the Americans held the streets and stood primed to help, it was Iraqi forces who stood guard at the nation's 5,000 polling sites.

American and Iraqi officials agreed, however, that the performance of Iraqi forces does not mean they are nearly ready to take over for U.S. troops in battling a complex insurgency. At a Baghdad news conference, interim Interior Minister Falah Naqib said that his ministry's forces, some of whom U.S. commanders have previously singled out for praise, remain 18 months from being "qualified."

But Naqib called the day a watershed for forces whose performance on less static battlefields has been checkered at best. "The Iraqi people have regained their trust in the Iraqi security forces," Naqib declared.

Officials said the one-day operation was months in the making. On the military side, commanders dated their campaign for a safe election day to November, when U.S. forces mounted an offensive to retake the western city of Falluja from insurgents. That high-profile operation was followed by hundreds of raids and roundups intended to keep insurgents off balance and deprived of the havens that let them organize and plan.

At the same time, commanders and officials laid out a plan for election weekend. To put every possible uniform on the street, the interim government cancelled all leaves for police and soldiers and offered the police extra pay to stick around. U.S. forces stockpiled supplies at the dozens of American bases around the country, so that supply convoys would offer insurgents no target.

Air assets were deployed en masse. The skies over the capital buzzed with U.S. Army Kiowa and Apache helicopter gunships and F-18A fighter jets--in large part because captured insurgents have said they are especially intimidated by airerafi, one official said.

Airlines Bag Extra Fees for Too Much Luggage

By Meredith Cohn
The Baltimore Sun

As Army soldier Richard Morris prepared to board a flight at Baltimore-Washington International Airport last fall for his first mission, his mother bid him farewell in the airport lobby with a swelling pride in her heart – and a slight hole in her wallet.

Linda Dawson had just charged $160 worth of fees for excess baggage on her credit card so her son could get all his gear to Fort Campbell in Kentucky, his first stop before eventual deployment in Iraq.

"I thought it was outrageous, but what was I going to let him do, go to camp without his boots?" said Dawson, who drove from her home in southern Pennsylvania about 40 miles north of the airport. "I was surprised, and I wasn't prepared."

Dawson joins many others who are discovering that airlines, with cramped cabins full of carry-ons, are no longer letting that extra bag slide and are reaping millions in extra dollars in revenue from the fees.

Baggage has become another reflection of the changes sweeping commercial aviation. Many more people are flying. And leisure travelers, who generally take much more with them than business travelers, have been making up a greater share of the flying public with the rise of discount air fares.

Moreover, as the bottom lines of some airlines have grown lighter in an increasingly competitive market, the companies have gotten tougher about collecting fees to recoup some of their losses. The average ticket prices per mile flown has sunk below 1986 levels, excluding taxes and the "Sept. 11" security fee that goes to the Transportation Security Administration for screening passengers and bags.

More baggage means less space for other revenue-generating cargo, and heavier planes drive up fuel costs. Changes in suitcase design have also contributed: The proliferation of wheeled luggage has made it physically possible for travelers to cart more stuff.

The Travel Goods Association says the wheeled Pullman case was introduced in the 1970s. Pilots and flight attendants began using them in the 1980s. Their popularity with the general public began in the early 1990s. The advent of wheeled versions of expandable, carry-on and backpack bags are also now widely available.

Airlines have historically charged fees for extra baggage. Baggage revenue has climbed steadily since 1990, according to the government numbers most readily available. But the biggest jump has come since 2001, when leisure travelers began making up more of the airplane loads than their business travelers, who often know how to pack light and need fewer things on their typically shorter trips, experts said.

At least one airline, Alaska Airlines, has begun to automate the baggage check-in process. Passengers put their luggage on a scale themselves and insert a credit card if it exceeds the limit.

The additional baggage fees aren't enough to make or break the airlines. Together, they pulled in more than $2.59 million in fees in 2003, up from almost $153 million in baggage fees in 2001. That's less than 3 percent of their total $100 billion in annual revenue.

It's not an uncommon sight at airports these days to see passengers moving items from heavy bags to lighter ones at the check-in counter to avoid the extra fees. Airline policies vary, but in general they allow two 50-pound checked suitcases and one carry-on bag, in addition to a purse or laptop computer case, before charging extra fees. Most airlines now display a metal frame at their counter that outlines the acceptable dimensions for passengers to test their bags before checking in.

Fees range but generally have become competitive in the last couple of years, like all other fees and fares. The most common charges on domestic flights are $40 to $80 for each extra suitcase and $25 to $80 for extra pounds or oversized bags. The fees typically go up with more and heavier bags and with unusual items such as surfboards, bicycles and pets. Limits are higher for overseas flights.

Transport Plane Crash Kills at Least 9 British Troops

By John Daniszewski
Los Angeles Times

LONDON -- Britain suffered what appeared to be its worst loss of life since the war in Iraq began 22 months ago when a Royal Air Force transport plane went down Sunday in clear skies northwest of Baghdad, leaving a trail of debris strewn over a wide area.

Military sources quoted by British newspapers and by the British Broadcasting Co. said at least nine British service personnel had died, and that the final toll could reach 15.

Prime Minister Tony Blair mourned the troops' deaths, which came on the same day that millions of Iraqis defied militant warnings not to vote in their country's first free election in five decades.

"It is doubly sad that their loss occurs on the same day as Iraq has gone to the polls. We can only wish that their sacrifice can help build a democratic Iraq."
-Paul Keetch

"This country and the world will never forget them," Blair said, speaking at his Downing Street home.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives earlier today. They can be so proud of what their loved ones accomplished," he said.

The Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules was on a 40-mile flight from Baghdad to Balad air base, a principal logistics distribution center for the U.S. and allied forces in Iraq. It went down around 5:30 p.m. about 25 miles northwest of the capital, in an area where regular British troops seldom operate.

There was no immediate information on whether mechanical failure of hostile fire brought down the aircraft, considered one of the safest in the military. Military officials also declined to detail the plane's mission.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said the plane may have been carrying elite SAS troops on special operations and that it appeared to have been downed by insurgents.

Insurgents have repeatedly fired shoulder-launched missiles at aircraft in and around Baghdad as well as in the north and west of the country, and a number of military helicopters have been shot down during the war. However, they have never brought down a fixed-wing aircraft.

If the Hercules plane was indeed shot down, it would represent "a major success" for the insurgents, said the Daily Telegraph.

Wing Commander Nigel Arnold of the RAF base in Lyneham, Wiltshire, said the air force was in the process of contacting the families of those on the flight. He declined to give further information but pledged a thorough investigation of the crash.

Before Sunday, Britain had recorded 76 military deaths in Iraq. In the worst incident, eight British servicemen died in the crash of a U.S. helicopter on March 21, 2003, one of the first days of the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

Of the deaths, 49 had been from hostile fire, with the rest from accidents and other causes.

Paul Keetch, the defense spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, among Britain's three main political parties to oppose the invasion of Iraq, called the loss "tragic."

"It is doubly sad that their loss occurs on the same day as Iraq has gone to the polls. We can only wish that their sacrifice can help build a democratic Iraq," he told reporters.

Perhaps Inevitably: Caffeinated Beer

BY PETER CARLSON
THE WASHINGTON POST

America's largest brewing company, Anheuser-Busch, released its latest product last week: a beer that contains caffeine.

Obviously, this is a monumental cultural milestone and it raises important questions that we as a society must answer. For instance: Is adding America's favorite stimulant to America's favorite alcoholic beverage the greatest scientific breakthrough of the 21st century? Or the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it? Or what?

The beer is called BE--with the E raised up, like an exponent in math, which is why the name is pronounced "B to the E." (The B stands for Budweiser. The E stands for extra.) Sold in 10-ounce cans, BE contains 54 milligrams of caffeine--about half the dose found in an average cup of coffee. BE also contains ginseng, the fabled herb, and guarana, an Amazonian berry frequently found in Brazilian soft drinks.

"It's beer with something extra," says Dawn Roepke, Anheuser-Busch's brand manager for new products. "It's new, it's innovative, it's different."

Actually, it's not all that new. The popularity of a cocktail made by adding vodka to the energy drink Red Bull has inspired several brewers to create caffeinated beers. Most are small local brews such as Moonshot, a Boston-based beer. One is nationally known: Sparks, a malt-based energy drink containing many of the same ingredients as BE.

Rolling Stone magazine raved about Sparks last year: "The wave of the future is getting invigorated and wasted in one go with Sparks, the energy drink that has thoughtfully already added booze for you."

But Rolling Stone did not rave about the flavor: "It tastes like cough syrup."

BE doesn't taste like cough syrup. It doesn't taste much like beer, either. It tastes like ... something else.

"It has an aroma of blackberry and a little bit of cherry, which is unexpected," says Nathaniel Davis, the brew master who created BE. "It has typical beer flavors, like hops and malt, and it finishes with what we're calling the wow factor."

What's the wow factor?

"That bright, slightly sweet tart finish," he says. "People who drink it, their eyes light up and they say 'Wow!,' among other things."

But taste is a trivial, subjective issue. The important sociological question is: What effect will caffeinated beer have on the fragile fabric of American society?

At first, beer with caffeine sounds like a terrific idea. You can stay awake longer and do many delightful things, such as drink more beer. Homer Simpson would love it. Rhonda Kallman, creator of the caffeinated Moonshot, certainly does.

"It's a wonderful feeling," she says. "Sometimes beer makes you sleepy or sluggish, but with Moonshot, you feel alert. You can go out and dance and have fun instead of falling asleep on the couch."

Alas, there is a potential downside. Drinking too much beer sometimes makes people do stupid things, such as fighting with strangers. Or sleeping with strangers.

Until now, beer guzzling was a self-regulating activity. Sure, drinking too much made you do stupid things. But it also tended to make you fall asleep before you got into trouble. Passing out is nature's way of saying you drank too much, and it has saved many from acute embarrassment. But with caffeine keeping beer drinkers cranked up, there's no end to the fun. Which could get ugly.

Roepke says she's not worried. "We at Anheuser-Busch encourage our adult consumers to use all our products in moderation," she says. "We market BE to today's contemporary adults, and they've told us that they want something to help them keep up with their fast-paced and highly social lifestyle. If they stay out late having fun with their friends and do it responsibly, we'll be very happy."

Moonshot's Kallman agrees. "If you tend to do stupid things, you probably shouldn't drink it," she says. "It's not for stupid people."

One satisfied customer put it best in an e-mail to the company, Kallman says. "I just want to let you know," the customer wrote, "that I'm drunk but I'm not in a stupor."

Drunk--but not in a stupor. If these new brews catch on, that could be the beer slogan for our fully caffeinated new millennium.

Gorillas Survive Despite Odds

BY GUY GUGLIOTTA
THE WASHINGTON POST

An isolated population of lowland African gorillas has survived and perhaps even prospered even though their forest habitat has endured repeated invasions by bands of gunmen, rebels and foreign soldiers, a new census finds.

The Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society reported last week that its census-takers had counted 168 Grauer's gorillas--including several infants--in the far eastern reaches of Congo, up from 120 to 130 in 2000.

"Some is reproduction, some is not finding them all in 2000," said Jefferson Hall, Africa program director at the conservation service. "But they're in pretty good shape."

Grauer's gorillas are slightly larger than other gorilla subspecies--an adult male can weigh 550 pounds--and live in 11 separate groups in Congo's lowland forests, Hall said in a telephone interview. The counted gorillas live in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, on the eastern border with Rwanda.

Hall estimated there were several thousand Grauer's gorillas countrywide, but their numbers have shrunk since the 1997 overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko set off a prolonged period of civil unrest that endures.

Hall said he had found between 245 and 270 gorillas in Kahuzi-Biega in 1996, but Rwandan troops, rebel Congolese and bands of gunmen had killed perhaps half of them, while smugglers plundered the park looking for the mineral coltan, a source of tantalum, widely used in electronics.

What apparently saved the rest of the gorillas were park guards who stood their ground. "If they hadn't been there," Hall said, "the gorillas would have been annihilated."

Back in the 'Days'

NEWSDAY

One of TV's classic sitcoms, "Happy Days," marks its "30th anniversary" with an ABC special Thursday night. (The show actually debuted in 1974, but "31st anniversary" just doesn't have the same juice.) Here are five things you might not have known about the show:

1. Arthur "Fonzie" Fonzarelli originally was to be named Arthur Maschiarelli (creator Garry Marshall's real last name) and nicknamed "Mash." When ABC first picked up the show, it had Marshall change the character's name because the network felt that "Mash" might remind people of "MASH," a popular show on CBS.

2. Both Micky Dolenz and Mike Nesmith of The Monkees auditioned to play Fonzie.

3. Robbie Benson and Don Most were both considered for the role of Richie Cunningham. The character of Ralph Malph was created for Most.

4. Richie Cunningham's favorite song was "Blueberry Hill" by Fats Domino.

5. The house used for the exterior shots of the Cunninghams' "Milwaukee" home in the opening sequence, as well as various points throughout the show's run, is situated at 565 Cahuenga Blvd. in West Hollywood.

The original cast of the T.V. show 'Happy Days'

-File Photo

Kerry Keeps One Toe in the Water

BY JOHN F. HARRIS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--Former Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kerry said the popular support President Bush garnered in the immediate wake of Sept.11, 2001, and the reluctance of voters to "shift horses in midstream" during wartime were the main reasons he was unsuccessful in the November election.

But Kerry, in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday, praised his own campaign for coming close, and said he intends to "build on the campaign" by continuing to be a leading voice of the opposition.

"I lost, Tim, to an incumbent president by a closer margin than an incumbent president has ever won re-election before in the history of the country," the Massachusetts senator told NBC's Tim Russert. "And if you add up the popular vote in the battleground states, I won the popular vote in the battleground states by two percentage points. We just didn't distribute it correctly in Ohio."

The interview capped a series of events--including a trip to Iraq, a speech on health care, and a pair of mass e-mails to supporters--serving notice that Kerry wishes to retain the national voice he gained as his party's nominee in Bush's second term, if he can. Current and former advisers in recent weeks have said Kerry's competitive instincts leave him inclined to seek the option of running for president in 2008, and he intends to keep his profile sufficiently high to preserve that option.

In the NBC interview, Kerry said he has given no thought to his plans for 2008, including whether he will seek re-election to the Senate that year. "I'm going to keep all my options open," he said when Russert pressed on his future ambitions.

"Did we make some mistakes? You bet we did," Kerry said. But the thrust of his comments was to argue that the mistakes were at the margins, and that his campaign deserves credit for challenging a war president with imposing political advantages.

"I believe that 9-11 was the central deciding issue in this race," said Kerry, who noted that when a taped message from Osama bin Laden surfaced days before the Nov. 2 polling, "We flat-lined the day the tape appeared and went down on Monday."

> **"I lost, Tim, to an incumbent president by a closer margin than an incumbent president has ever won re-election before in the history of the country."**
>
> **-John Kerry**

"It's a very difficult hurdle when a country is at war," Kerry said. He later added, "I think it's remarkable we came as close as we did as a campaign."

In seeking to maintain his presidential viability, rather than receding into elder statesman status, Kerry is swimming against a historical tide. The last presidential candidate who earned a second nomination after losing once was Richard Nixon, in 1968. Most losing nominees earn more catcalls than bouquets from their party, much less demands for an encore.

Even for the 2000 Democratic nominee, Al Gore, who defeated Bush in the popular vote, there was a decided ambivalence. Some Democrats wished he spoke out more aggressively as an opposition leader in the beginning the Bush presidency. But many were relieved to see him step aside.

It is clear that many people wish Kerry likewise would yield the stage, or be jostled to the side. One of those is billionaire George Soros, a major financier of liberal oppositions groups such as America Coming Together that waged independent campaigns against Bush. In an interview with Bloomberg News Service at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Soros said "Kerry, did not, actually offer a credible and coherent alternative. That had a lot to do with Bush being re-elected."

Soros, who said he has no regrets about the millions he spent during the election, faulted Kerry for playing up his "role as a Vietnam War hero" instead of talking more openly about "his role as an anti-Vietnam War hero" and the protest activities that at first brought him to the national stage in the early 1970s.

But one former colleague from Massachusetts politics said he would be eager to see Kerry keep a prominent role. Former governor Michael Dukakis, the 1988 Democratic nominee, said no one was eager for him to run again because he ran a "lousy" general election campaign, but he said Kerry, "all things being equal" ran a "darn good" campaign.

Unlike most recent presidential nominee, Dukakis said in an interview, the man who served as his lieutenant governor "has an unusual opportunity to go back to the Senate" and use that platform. "He's not going to be the opposition leader, because that's not the way the system works," Dukakis said. "He is in a position to assert himself, and I would hope and expect that he will."

OPINION

Cutting the fat out of Westfield's faculty

"THE LEFT HANDED ELEPHANT"
BY DAVID PAGEAU
VOICE COLUMNIST

As students on this campus, most of us (so I hope) are aware of the issue of teacher contracts at Westfield Sate College. Now I know this isn't a great opening sentence and most of you are probably cringing at the thought of reading about legal issues on campus. So I'll give you a Reader's Digest version of this controversial issue. State professors are working on temporary contracts and haven't received any substantial pay raise in a number of years. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the professors cannot come to an agreement. However, I have a proposal that is one, so logical it hurts, two, damn effective, and three, friggin' hilarious. It goes a little something like this…

Now we all have had that absolutely horrendous professor that in your book should be given the boot and never allowed to come within one hundred yards of a teaching institution for the rest of his or her life. Even as first year students I am sure you have had at least one. My proposal is very simple and involves doing what is needed when something doesn't work anymore: You throw the damn thing away. That's all you have to do! Gather all of the professors who suck by majority vote according to students, give them all pink slips to dry their little tears and send them on their way. After the deed is done you simply take their gross salaries and disperse it evenly to all of the professors who do their jobs and/or hire new professors who would do a far better job and increase the quality of our education at Westfield State College. I think that is a pretty demoeratic idea, don't you?

"Gather all the professors who suck by majority vote according to students, give them all pink slips to dry their little tears and send them on their way."

So, now that we have a plan, who should we vote off the island of WSC? Well, I am a classy guy, so I am not going to name any names. However, I am going to describe these professors to you and I urge everyone who reads this to send in your ideas of which professors just aren't cutting the mustard.

First and foremost, I would send the history professor making eighty grand a year who tells history majors that if they don't do history his way, to get out of it, packing. Hey buddy, how 'bout you teach a class and stop scolding us! I have personally written a letter of complaint to the history chairman because of this professors arcane methods of "teaching" and irresponsible behavior towards his students.

Next would be the women studies/history professor who thinks she is Buddha reincarnated for the simple fact that if your opinion doesn't mesh with hers, then she doesn't give one Cleveland steamer about it. Also, according to her, Palestine has become the most peaceful and misunderstood nation in the world… Yep. It's your money kids. If you want this lady to get paid to propagandize, discriminate against other ideas and teach her looney tune beliefs as gospel, then by all means.

After her, my next victim would have to be the Political Science professor who makes seventy grand a year, but can't afford an even haircut. I have had personal encounters with this professor and how much of a misunderstanding wench she can be outside of the classroom. In the classroom she is worse! Her grading scheme makes no sense whatsoever, she kills ten thousand tress a day with her pointless handouts, and is overwhelmingly biased towards women. Just ask the women in the classroom!

I could list a few others, but I want you to tell me who want to see gone. Combined with the chart of professor salaries we could statistically prove to the administration here that my simple, yet effective method of "Social Davidism" would weed out crappy teachers while at the same time saving the school a lot of dough. If you know of a professor who needs to find a new career, and I know all of you do, then send an email to **thecampusvoice@hotmail.com** and I will write a follow-up column on the results of how much money the school could save, and stupidity that could be simultaneously prevented from entering the minds of Westfield State College students.

A new it

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

There exists, in the world of English, a perpetual problem that has long been blamed on political correctness, but is in fact the result of an inadequacy of language. I speak, of course, of the he/she problem.

Often, I'm sure you've all found, you find yourself referring to a person in writing who could be anyone. In past days, we, like many other languages, used the masculine when there was a doubt. "The customer, regardless of what he says, is always right." Now, this supposed customer could be anyone, male or female, but the masculine gender is used as the default.

Feminists focusing on the linguistics of gender have argued that this was a tool to relegate women to second-class status, and the words "oppression" and "patriarchy" probably got thrown around a bit, too. Personally, I think the prevalence of the "he" is the natural result of a history in which men were more publicly influential. It's not a concentrated effort; it's just a sign of the times. Unfair, sure, but not deliberate.

Often neglected is a negative effect that the overuse and semi-neutral gender of the universal "he" on men. When "mankind" and "man" refer to our whole species, and "he" can mean any theoretical person, women are admittedly set off as beings of secondary importance. But coupled with that is a diffusion of male identity. There is no question of "womankind" as being the sum of all females; "mankind," however, does not evoke any images of brotherhood or the whole of the male gender. The strength and potency of "he" is lessened when compared to the unambiguous "she." It is for this reason as much as women's empowerment that I firmly believe in separating "he" from the neutral gender usage.

The problem, however, is that constantly saying "he or she" is both inelegant and unnecessary language. It's an ambiguity that can, in certain context, weaken powerful language. It forces the writer to make the giant's choice: 1) submit to using two pronouns (he and she) where you only want one, or 2) use the grammatically incorrect plural "they" when a third person singular is needed. Many of you, I do not doubt, have in both writing and conversation used "they" in the singular sense, because you wanted a single word that meant "he or she."

It is with this in mind that I say that we need a new it, which I humbly suggested be the word "nit." We need a third person singular pronoun, something we can use to refer to a person, but a word with no loaded gender. "The customer, whoever nit may be, is always right."

Now, this suggestion is somewhat pointless in the context of this paper, I know. Even if all seven of my readers were to instantly agree to begin using "nit," the English language would not be altered. My goal is to begin spreading the idea. The change won't come overnight, but it will come. Slowly, there will be debates over the worthiness of "nit." Inevitably, there will arise camps of academics who embrace or reject it. Some professors, years from now, will accept "nit" on papers handed in. Slowly, it will become part of the vernacular.

Some day, when I'm old, wrinkled, and bitter, I'd like to be able to hear "nit" used by an Oxford English professor speaking on the BBC about something no one will probably care about anymore.

Tsunami Relief Benefit Dance Party
February 11, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Third World Room
$2 for WSC students
$3 otherwise
Baked goods and beverages will be served
100% of the proceeds go to Tsunami Relief Aid

The Voice

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THE VOICE
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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

It's worth the wait

"This Owl's Howl"
By John Deschenes
Sports Columnist

I know a lot of you were probably thinking to yourself why the Super Bowl couldn't have been this past Sunday, I know I was. I don't like the extra week between the AFC/NFC championship games and the Super Bowl, but I guess it is necessary. A lot of preparations and arrangements have to be made, but I just get tired of hearing the same stuff over and over again. Will Terrell Owens play? Are the Patriots a dynasty if they win this game? What will Freddie "I am irrelevant" Mitchell say today? Is Tom Brady the second coming of Joe Montana? Will Donovan McNabb be the first African-American quarterback to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory since Doug Williams of the Washington Redskins did it in Super Bowl XXII?

I've been paying attention to other things recently, trying to block out all of the Super Bowl hype. All I care about is the game; I don't care what all these different analysts have to say. Most of them are wrong all the time anyway. So here is what I've been following:

- Boston College basketball: 18-0 (7-0 in the Big East); off to their best start in school history and currently ranked #5 in both the Coaches and Associated Press polls (also a school best)

- Sammy Sosa got traded to Baltimore. Does anybody really care? This guy was once an icon in Chicago, but he wore out his welcome (the Nomar of Chicago?). His career is on the decline anyway.

- Why is the NHL still trying to save this season? I was all for them fixing the problem as soon as possible, but it's too late now. I don't want to see a season as short as it would be if they were to reach an agreement this late. That wouldn't produce a true champion to me. There is something to be said for a team that can battle through an 82 game regular season and then survive in the grueling playoffs.

- The Celtics are still under .500, but lead the Atlantic Division? No comment.

I'd now like to take some time to address the Australian Open. If you don't like tennis I suggest you skip this part. On the women's side you had Serena Williams making a statement that she is still the best player in the world when healthy. She defeated my future wife, Maria Sharapova (a man can dream can't he?), in the semifinals and fellow American Lindsay Davenport in the finals. Serena lost the first set to Sharapova 6-2, but rallied to win the next two sets in dramatic fashion. She also lost the first set to Davenport 6-2, but there was no drama after that. Serena dismantled Davenport in the next two sets, including a 6-0 win in the decisive third. Women's tennis is a whole lot better with Serena back in the fold.

In a similar fashion, Marat Safin announced that he was back to being one of the best players in the world on the men's side. The Russian won the U.S. Open back in 2000, but has been an enigma ever since. He has all the talent in the world, but his head isn't always there. Needless to say, it was there over the past two weeks. Safin overcame a 2-1 deficit in sets to the world's best player, Roger Federer. Federer also had a match point in that match. Safin rallied to win in five sets. This win moved Safin into the final where he was to play the winner of the Andy Roddick/Lleyton Hewitt semifinal. The young American took the 1st set, but imploded after that. Hewitt, a fiery Aussie, had the weight of a country on his shoulders. Why? Because no Australian male had won the tourney in about 30 years. Hewitt eked out the next two sets and shattered Roddick's confidence. Hewitt finished off the deal with a convincing 6-1 fourth set victory.

> "Plus I got to see Hewitt's and Safin's girlfriends one last time. WOW!"

The storylines were there for the final: Hewitt was playing for a country and Safin was trying to avoid losing the Australian Open final for the third time in four years. Safin lost the first set 6-1 and it looked like it would be a long night for him. The crowd was behind Hewitt. Safin used an injury timeout in the 2nd set (some suggest unethically) and started to play his game. I happen to think the injury timeout was in response to Hewitt's constant prodding of linesmen. It's all gamesmanship.

Safin took over the match and put on a clinic. Safin won the next three sets, despite a valiant effort from Hewitt. Hewitt has nothing to be ashamed of; he lost to a better player. Hopefully Hewitt does win the Aussie Open one of these years, but it was great seeing Safin reestablish himself as one of the best.

Yes, I did stay up to watch the final live (3:30 AM) and I didn't go to bed till it was over (6:45), but it was worth it. It was some of the best tennis you'll ever see. Plus, I got to see Hewitt's and Safin's girlfriends one last time. WOW!

I guess I should talk about this football game coming up on Sunday. As good as the Eagles are how can you bet against Bill Belichick, Tom Brady, and the Patriots? They beat the best offensive team in the league (giving up three points!) AND beat the leagues best defensive team (scoring 41!). I like and respect Andy Reid a ton, but I just can't see Philly winning this game (with or without T.O.). I do think the Eagles will put up a better fight than those AFC frauds. I'll take the Patriots 20-13. It's still six days away, but once we get to the opening kickoff the wait won't matter any longer.

The monogamous way

"The Devil's Aovocate"
By Pete Norwooo
A&E Eoitor

What has happened to the virtue of monogamy? Maybe I am old fashioned (even though I was definitely not raised as such) but I still see monogamy as the best way to go, especially in this day and age when a single sexual experience can be the equivalent of a death sentence. I do not condemn those who value promiscuous relationships over monogamous ones, but I do ask you to look inside yourself and ask if that is what you really want.

It would seem to me that along with the rise of promiscuity came a sense that either women or men, or perhaps both, had lost respect for the opposite gender. Why is it that guys who treat women like pieces of meat are more apt to become involved in any type of relationship, monogamous or otherwise? Have women lost respect for themselves? And furthermore, do they realize that allowing themselves to be treated like dirt only perpetuates the male stereotype (that being that we are all slobbering dogs, which ironically doesn't seem to be far from the truth). As long as a dog gets a pat on the head, he will assume that his actions are good

I say all this because I am frustrated. I was brought up in a house where women were a sort of commodity. They were neither valuable nor irreplaceable. If she did not know her place then she could get the hell out. It sickened me to think that most of these women, despite harsh treatment would come crawling back like a bitch (before you get all heated, look it up in the dictionary) in heat. I resolved to not treat women like this.

In the process of becoming, in a sense, "feminized," I began to observe things. I began to observe how my friends and brothers treated their girlfriends. I began to examine how they talked about their girlfriends, and in many cases, other women. Though the investigations at the time were only an effort to mold myself in to being a better person, they now bring realizations.

> "Women aren't as ignorant to their significant other's behaviors as many of us would like to believe."

Women aren't as ignorant to their significant other's behaviors as many of us would like to believe. Perhaps they saw the same things I did when I was a kid. Maybe this is where such promiscuous behavior comes from. However, it is also important to note that we, as members of this institution, are a bunch of college kids who are experiencing freedom for perhaps the first time. We have been liberated in such a manner as to feel free to express ourselves sexually.

Perhaps the people such as myself who are bothered by promiscuous activities are simply "not getting ass." On the other hand, maybe we are looking for some genuine emotion. What would it really do for me to wake up next to a girl who, for all I know, had slept in another man's bed the night before? That isn't genuine! I would much rather share such a symbiotic relationship with someone whom I trust and care about, with someone I can talk to in order to make me feel better and whom I know will do the same if she is having any sort of problem.

Such a schism between sexual relations and emotional relations only serves to weaken the thread of our already feeble society. It is amazing that after a period of "free love," which admittedly had little to do with anything resembling "love," that we would come to a period of no love. Divorce rates are through the roof, marriage has become nothing but an instrument with which to enhance people's steadily evaporating rights, and not even same sex couples are able to legally marry (which is funny, considering one would think that the government would do anything to make marriage mean something again).

If you are still reading this column, then I have already underestimated at least a small fraction of this community. You, the reader, may also get the sense that I have recently been rejected, which I will neither deny nor confirm. I will say that as some of us do, I have found a special person, who, as far as I can tell is on the "monogamist/promiscuous" fence. My life will not end if nothing comes of this, in fact, by writing a column I would assume my chances are falling drastically with this girl.

It is my duty, however to express my opinion through the written word. How expressing my opinion publicly affects my private life is currently of no concern to me. Inwardly, I have already given up on the idea that there is someone for everyone. The reality of the matter is, like with big business, relationships are based on a kind of "dog-eat-dog" competitiveness. I will not submit to what seems to be the "norm" on this campus, and I will not suggest that anyone do anything that isn't true to themselves. In the end, all that really matters is self-worth. I know what I am worth, do you?

Surgery, cont.

Some place a little more private. This is where it began to suck, a lot."

They hooked Jen up to more IVs, including a nausea medication. After about an hour, she began to throw up repeatedly.

"Of course, everyone knows those stupid little containers for puke hold nothing, so when I first threw up, it completely filled that thing and then some, and I ended up getting it all over the bed and my hair. They handed me a larger bucket, where I continued to do my business. I threw up about ten times total. I haven't done that since I was at least thirteen. Luckily I don't remember too much."

Jen couldn't keep a thing down the entire afternoon. By the time eight o'clock had rolled around, she was informed by the nurse on duty that she would most likely have to spend the night there, which is very unorthodox for this kind of procedure.

"This Russian nurse read me the riot act about having to stay the night and how stupid it would be for me to leave. This pissed me off." Jen wanted to go home and recover there, but there was no getting around it. Her mother and Mark offered to stay the night there, but both decided that only one other person was really necessary. Mark stayed with Jen.

For the most part, Jen described her night as pretty unbearable.

Around nine o'clock, the Russian nurse and another young woman came in to examine Jen's incisions. They took off the Johnny and unwrapped her girdle, which left her completely exposed. The nurses also left the curtain to her bed wide open. Jen had a "neighbor" which would get repeated visits from other adults. At one point, a middle-aged man walked by and looked in, seeing Jen completely naked and disoriented.

Interestingly enough, Jen later found out who her neighbor was. She was a middle-aged Asian woman who had come in with a broken ankle. She was a part of the Westfield State College maintenance staff, who had slipped on a patch of ice behind Ely Library and taken a nasty spill. Mark ended up talking to her husband, who was also part of maintenance.

"The rest of the night was just plain awful. Not only was I still sick, but because of the IV, I had to pee every 45 minutes, which included me getting out of bed, maneuvering, the IV wires and sitting on the pot." On top of this, Jen still had a hard time keeping anything down.

"Mark helped by trying to feed me a little bit of orange Jell-O and ginger ale, but this proved to be impossible. It would come up twenty minutes later."

Jen did begin to feel better as the night progressed and managed to keep down some water and Saltine crackers.

There was no sleeping for her that night. She described how she tossed and turned and could not get into a comfortable position. She does not normally sleep on her back, and this caused neck and leg pain as well.

Mark was in and out of the room the entire night. He had found a couch to sleep on in the lounge three doors down, but made it a point to come see how Jen was doing.

"I don't know what I would've done if Mark hadn't been by my side the entire time. I am so lucky to have him."

Sleep still would not come to Jen.

"I called my parents at six the following morning and told them I didn't want to be there anymore. The IV in my hand was killing me and I kept calling the nurse to come take it out. After about 20 minutes she finally did and I managed to get a little sleep. However I woke up with a horrible sore neck."

Jen's parents explained that they could not discharge her until much later that morning. Somehow, Jen managed to fall asleep.

Around nine that morning, Jen was awaken by her parents.

"I felt a lot better, was up walking around and ready to go home."

At this point, this was the first time she was able to look down and see what kind of improvement there was. She was shocked when Mark helped put her clothes on. She had never seen her shirt fit her in the way it did now. There was no bulge.

"Even though I was still immensely swollen and bruised, I was a lot smaller already. I just looked at Mark and started smiling."

Jen showed her parents the results then also. They were impressed.

She went home that morning tired, sore but also happy.

It has been three days since her surgery experience, and already Jen has seen more positive results.

"I tried on some shirts, carefully, and some sweatshirts. They all fit like they never have before. And I'm still really swollen. It can only get better from here."

The question on her friend's and family's mind is whether or not this experience was worth it to Jen.

"I think it will be, with time. I will not be fully recovered for three months. I guess I'll have to wait and see then."

The Voice will check back with Jen again in April.

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Arts & Entertainment

Eastwood's "Baby" Delivers Knockout Punch

BY DAN COOPER
VOICE REPORTER

Oscar-winning director Clint Eastwood returns to the big screen after his critically acclaimed "Mystic River" to deliver a film that is easily his best as a director, the absolutely incredible "Million Dollar Baby."

The film opens appearing to be just the simple story of a run-down boxing trainer, Frankie Dunn (Eastwood), and the girl he reluctantly decides to train, Maggie Fitzgerald (Hilary Swank). By the time the credits roll, however, Eastwood as the director has grabbed the viewer by the heart and pulled every emotion possible out of you.

Dunn at first refuses to train Maggie because he doesn't train girls. Maggie's resistance to go away, however, along with urging by Frankie's friend, ex-boxer Eddie "Scrap-Iron" Dupris (Morgan Freeman) eventually gives Frankie a change of heart. Maggie wants to box because, as narrator Eddie points outs, "She grew up knowing one thing-she was trash."

Waitressing since she was 13, Maggie, now 31, sees boxing as a way to escape her ho-hum life. She, Frankie, and Eddie are all scarred characters. Frankie has not been in contact with his daughter for 23 years and goes to mass everyday. Eddie lost an eye while in a championship fight, an injury Frankie blames himself for.

The first hour and a half or so follows Frankie and Maggie through various boxing matches, all the way up to a title match. Through it all, Maggie and Frankie develop a father/daughter bond, something Frankie has never had. They promise never to leave each other for another manager.

Maggie is portrayed by Hilary Swank as a strong-willed woman who overcomes her past. Swank, who won an Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry," is magnificent here. She gives Maggie a heart and soul. She is also the heart and soul of "Million Dollar Baby" from the beginning to the powerful ending. Eastwood, long the iconic star, gives what could be the performance of his long career as the aging boxing trainer.

His "Unforgiven" costar, Morgan Freeman, delivers the likable and trustworthy performance like only he can. All three stars were nominated recently for Oscars at this year's Academy Awards, and all three could very well win.

Aside from his acting nomination, Eastwood also earned a well-deserved Best Director and Best Picture nominations. At 74 years young, Clint Eastwood is all of a sudden delivering some of the best work of his career behind the camera. His film is so much more than a boxing tale.

-File photo

Clint Eastwood and Hilary Swank in character for the film "Million Dollar Baby"

It is the tale of 2 lost souls who need each other to experience the joy in life. For Frankie Dunn, he gets to live life with the daughter he wishes he had. For Maggie Fitzgerald, she rises up from her past to make something of herself. The key that locks these two together is Freeman's Dupris, who stays a friend to Frankie despite his sometimes negative attitude and constantly believes in Maggie.

This is by far the high point of Clint Eastwood's career. He won Best Picture and Director Oscars for 1992's "Unforgiven." Two, or even three more, could well be on his way with this masterpiece.

89.5 WSKB Spring Semester DJ Schedule

Time:	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am- 12 pm	Sam & Mark						
12 pm- 2 pm	Sam						
2 pm- 4 pm		"Shut Up & Listen	Dan K.	Caiti & Ashlee	Melissa Camidge	"The Star"	
4 pm - 6pm		Prof. Stassinos	Jeff	"Riddled w/ Perversion"	Brutality Radio	Margo & Skylar	
6 pm - 8 pm	Nicole Sylvester	Renee Estey	"Retro Rewind"	Devon & Ian	Full Metal Mixer	"Und Keine Eier"	
8 pm - 10 pm	The Ticket	Geeks w/ Issues	Biob & Bonnie	Carlos/NGOC	Liz & Trinidad	Mike Nowak	
10 pm - 12 am	The Cellar Door	MAX	Steve & Ryan	Chris Trott	Bergie & Chris		

Check into this hotel

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

When the Oscar nominations were announced in late January, actor Paul Giamatti was overlooked by the Academy for his leading performance in the critically acclaimed film Sideways. This angered many Giamatti fans who believed he also deserved the nomination last year for his portrayal of cartoonist Harvey Pekar in American Splendor. Instead, Johnny Depp, Leonardo Dicaprio, Clint Eastwood, Jamie Foxx, and Don Cheadle, the star of Hotel Rwanda, received the five best actor nominations.

Don Cheadle is not an extremely well known actor. Terry George, the director of Hotel Rwanda, opted for either Denzel Washington or Wesley Snipes to play the main character instead of Cheadle because of their overwhelming popularity. Cheadle has been acting since the mid-80s, but he doesn't typically play the leading man. Many may know him best for his role in Ocean's Eleven and its horrific sequel. He played Basher Tarr – AKA "the guy with the funny accent." Although Cheadle may not draw the same crowd size as either Washington or Snipes, Hotel Rwanda benefits to an invaluable extent due to Cheadle's casting and its Oscar nominated screenplay.

Cheadle stars as Paul Rusesabagina in this true story of a hotel manager in 1994 Rwanda, Africa. During these tragic times, in a short period of only three months, around one million people were brutally murdered. Rusesabagina risked his life by opening his hotel to a thousand Tutsis refugees in an attempt to help save them from the Hutu militia. This plot, while based on actual events, also works brilliantly as a contemporary historical film. The visuals and politics constantly remind us of the world's current situation and of the notion that history continues to repeat itself. People, much like the ones in Hotel Rwanda, are the ones who create history. They too are the only ones who can change it. Rusesabagina's revolution saved lives and struggled for change.

Director Terry George also co-wrote the script with Keir Pearson. Hotel Rwanda is George's second Oscar nominated screenplay. His first nomination came from his debut film In the Name of the Father back in 1994. Two years ago he co-wrote Hart's War, an underappreciated film starring Colin Farrell and Bruce Willis. Even if he doesn't win at the Feb. 27 ceremony, he has established himself as an important writer in Hollywood, and his future work should warrant much anticipation.

Check out Hotel Rwanda, one of the best films of 2004, at the Academy of Music Theatre at the gates of Northampton's Smith College. Bring your college ID – only five bucks. Showtimes are Friday through Sunday at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., and Monday through Thursday at 5:30 p.m and 8:00 p.m.

If you like mustache rides and leather straps then these movies are for you

Film Files

By: Lisandra Billings

Tommy Boy (1995) – Starring Chris Farley (Tommy) and David Spade (Richard), the plot surrounds the duo's journey to sell car parts in order to save Tommy's deceased father's factory. Sure the slapstick comedy may be a little idiotic, but who can resist the humor of a fat guy getting beat up all the time?

*Most Memorable Quote: "Fat guy in a little coat, fat guy in a little coat..."

*Funniest Scene: After the two hit a deer their guilt overcomes them and, assuming the deer is dead, they load the buck into Richard's precious convertible. En route to drop the deer off somewhere, the deer obviously wakes up and completely tears the car apart. As Tommy himself would say, "Holy Shneikes!"

Happy Gilmore (1996) – Golf-lovers beware: This film could destroy your peaceful view of the generally conservative sport. Happy Gilmore (played by the incredible Adam Sandler) is a rejected hockey player who needs to make money fast in order to buy back his grandma's repossessed house. The film follows his path, led by golf instructor Chubbs, who by the way has a wooden hand because an alligator with one eye bit it off when Chubbs attempted to retrieve his golf ball from a pond. Enough said.

*Most Memorable Quote: "The price was wrong, Bitch!" (Happy Gilmore to Bob Barker)

*Most Memorable Scene: Happy's deranged views of "Happy Land." Midgets on toy horses, Grandma making out with Kiss...the entire scene was ridiculously messed up. We loved it.

Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery (1997) – The first time we all met the very randy, very groovy Austin Powers will forever be burned in our memories. Though he's since returned to us in two other films, you can never beat the original. Secret Agent Powers is frozen in the 60's and wakes up in the 90's and has to save the world from Dr. Evil, and of course, get the girl. (Too bad she turns out to be a Femmebot in the sequel...)

*Most Memorable Quote: "The details of my life are quite inconsequential...very well, where do I begin? My father was a relentlessly self-improving boulangerie owner from Belgium with low-grade narcolepsy and a penchant for buggery. My mother was a fifteen-year-old French prostitute named Chloe with webbed feet. My father would womanize, he would drink. He would make outrageous claims like he invented the question mark. Sometimes he would accuse chestnuts of being lazy. The sorts of general malaise that only the genius possess and the insane lament. My childhood was typical. Summers in Rangoon, luge lessons. In the spring we'd make meat helmets. When I was insolent I was placed in a burlaps bag and beaten with reeds – pretty standard really. At the age of twelve I received my first scribe. At the age of fourteen a Zoroastrian named Vilma ritualistically shaved my testicles. There really is nothing like a shorn scrotum...it's breath taking." (Dr. Evil on his childhood)

*Most Memorable Scene: When Powers works his mojo to defeat the femmebots.

The Water Boy (1998) – Adam Sandler (Bobby Boucher) makes the list again with The Water Boy in which a southern boy, actually a man who acts like a boy, discovers his hidden talent for playing "foosball" (football for those of you unfortunate enough to have not seen the film). Boucher begins playing college ball behind his overbearing "Mama's" back and must not only do good in order to keep his scholarship to school but also overcome the childish taunting of his teammates.

*Most Memorable Quote: "It's the devil!" Said by Mama Boucher about a million times throughout the film.

*Most Memorable Scene: Any time Farmer Fran opens his mouth to speak and just says absolutely nothing.

Office Space (1999) – I'm still not exactly sure what this movie was about but it's absolutely hilarious. A trio of office workers decide to take charge against their company and monotonous lives. While the storyline is strange, the characters are absolutely amazing and the situations they get themselves into and how they go about doing things makes everyday life seem comical. Not to mention the constant gangster rap music that plays in the background of basically every scene...

*Most Memorable Quote: "And I said, I don't care if they lay me off either, because I told them, I told Bill that if they move my desk one more time, then, then I'm, I'm quitting, I'm going to quit. And, and I told Don took, because they've moved my desk four times already this year, and I used to be over by the window, and I could see the squirrels, and they were married, but then, they switched from the Swingline to the Boston stapler, but I kept my Swingline stapler because it didn't bind up as much, and I kept the staples for the Swingline stapler and it's not okay because if they take my stapler then I'll set the building on fire..." –Milton

*Most Memorable Scene: When Milton does indeed set the building on fire and is seen running away from the fire. Or perhaps also when Michael Bolton, Peter and Samir take the printer out into the field and smash it, to the lovely tunes of the "Geto Boys."

Scary Movie (2000) – A spoof on all of the horror movies, this is the original "horror movie parody" that has ever been released. Though others have tried to match the humor of the film (such as Scary Movie's 2 & 3 and Not Another Teen Movie), you really cannot beat the original. The film follows a flimsy plot using stereotypical horror movie situations gone bad to create the comedy. A bit vulgar and gross at times, but amusing nonetheless.

*Most Memorable Quote: "Look, if it's about that time I puked green slime and masturbated with a crucifix, it was my first keg party, Bobby!"

*Most Memorable Scene: When one of the Wayans brothers sticks his head up to the stall to hear what's going on next door and gets a huge penis shoved into his ear.

Super Troopers (2001) – One of the biggest stoner movies of all time, Super Troopers is a hilarious depiction of Vermont State Troopers. The film follows a small department of highway patrolmen as they feud with the town cops and battle against one another to crack a drug laundering case in their town. This is absolutely my favorite movie of all time and if you live anywhere in the New England area and have yet to see this movie...you've got problems.

*Most Memorable Quote: Though it's nearly impossible to pick because the entire movie is filled with the funniest quotes imaginable...I would have to go with "Who wants a mustache ride?"

*Most Memorable Scene: The amazing opening car scene at the beginning of the movie. Basically every stoner's nightmare...

Jackass (2002) – To be honest, I personally wasn't really thrilled with this movie, but I know everyone else adored it, and there were no other movies I found particularly amusing in the 2002. So you all know the deal...just like the MTV show. A bunch of guys doing stupid things to their bodies.

*Most Memorable Quote: "AAAAAARRHHHGGG" That was a scream by the way.

*Most Memorable Scene: When one of the guys eats a yellow snow cone. Yellow as in human pee.

Old School (2003) – The ultimate college film, Old School is nothing short of amazing. Starring Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn and Luke Wilson, the film depicts three middle-aged men who buy a house on a college campus and start their own, open to anyone, fraternity. Every single thing about this movie is funny and it reminds students everywhere what college should truly be about.

*Most Memorable Quote: "Blue! You're my boy!"

*Most Memorable Scene: Will Ferrell running down the street naked because apparently everyone else was "going streaking."

Dodgeball (2004) – 2004 was a hard year. With films like Anchorman and Without A Paddle, the decision was hard. But it truly all comes down to Dodgeball. Any movie that features grown men throwing rubber balls at one another has got to be amusing. Ben Stiller's over the top character White combined with Vince Vaughn's calm, cool and collected character Peter create a perfect comedic duo.

*Most Memorable Quote: "That dike really knows how to dodge a ball!"

*Most Memorable Scene: When the Average Joe team has to compete in their first match wearing dominatrix costumes...leather straps and all.

Ani Difranco soars to new heights

BY LAURA SHAW
VOICE REPORTER

Ani Difranco is one of the most intelligent, political, and talented singer/songwriters of the 21 century. *Knuckle Down* took me for a spiritual ride inside Ani's mind and heart. The album, which came out January 25, 2005, is distinctively her, but different from her last release *Educated Guess*. In *Educated Guess* Ani played all the instruments herself , but she decided to change it up on *Knuckle Down*. *Knuckle Down* uses a collaboration of talented musicians to add a different style and feel to the album. More songs are upbeat, with more music added to them. The album is dedicated to her father, Dante Americo Difranco, with her last song 'Recoil' mentioning him directly:

"'course, then I think of my dad
who time travels mostly now
back to when he was free
and holding out hope somehow
who sits all day in a line
of wheelchairs against a wall
inventing ways to play out time"

'Recoil' begins with a guitar introduction followed by an upbeat melody flowing perfectly with her hard-to-miss vocals. *Knuckle Down*, the first song to kick off the album is my personal favorite. This song is more basic than others on the album, with her guitar prominent through the entire song, with little to no other musical instruments. She becomes more aggressive and her feelings seem to become more visible as the song continues. 'Parameters' is another song that stuck out, but more for the lyrics, than for the music itself. The end gives a strong idea that the song is about suicide:

"as you walk him step by step back
to the door
having talked him down off the ledge
of a very bad idea
soft leather, big feet, almond eyes
the kinds of details the police officer
would ask for
later
with his clip - board
and his pistol
in your hallway"

-File Photo

Even the cover art on Ani's new c.d. suggests a more upbeat album.

'Parameters' reminds me of what *Educated Guess* seemed to be about, spoken poetry. It is a beautiful, eerie, song that really makes you think. Ani's news album is about strength, will, power, love, democracy, and much more than I could ever fully understand. This album will satisfy any intelligent person's muscial taste buds. I would recommend *Knuckle Down* to any Ani Difranco fan because I highly doubt she will disappoint you in any way. To those who are interested, *Knuckle Down* would be a great album to start your collection.

-File Photo

Ani Jamming out on her guitar earlier in her career. The dreads are eerily similar...

Up and coming band worthy of attention

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

ELY- On Wednesday, February 2, 2005, another Coffee House was sponsored by the Community Activities Board. Perhaps those who were there remember the first act of the night. Matty Benoit performed some ballads with his roommate, Jay Brewster. Of particular interest is a band of which Benoit is a part, called *The After Hour*. If Benoit and Brewster's performance on Wednesday night is any indication as to what we can expect, then they are a band worth keeping an eye out for.

The After Hour was formed in July of 2004. They have played different shows in the Worcester area. Other members of the band include Chris Roland, Paul Ventresca, Ryan Fitzgerald, and Peter Giza.

Benoit said that his band will be playing a show coming up in Boston. The After Hour will be taking part in a competition of sorts as part of the Emergenza Festival. This show will be taking place at the Middle East Café. Many bands are scheduled to play, and the winning band gets an opportunity to go to the Paradise Rocklounge, where the competition continues. The winners at this show will continue on to the final show at the Avalon.

Photo by Pete Norwood

Pictured is Matt Benoit, lead singer of *The After Hour* (right) and his roommate Jay Brewster. They jammed out at last week's coffee house.

When asked what his band sounded like, Benoit replied "straight-up Incubus." This is to say that all of their songs are different, with a varying sound style, as can be seen on many of the Incubus albums. *The After Hour* has not yet released a demo album, but it is slated to be complete sometime in March. When they finally get to the point when they will be putting out an album, Benoit reports that there will be about 11 tracks. The actual number is "up in the air." Some of these tracks will be acoustic.

There are unconfirmed reports that *The After Hour* may be playing sometime soon at Saturday Night Live, which is held in the Ely Main Lounge. While this is neither here nor there, it would be an excellent opportunity for at least members of the Westfield State College community to sample their music. Listen for them on WSKB around March when their demo album is released. On a more personal note: I wish the guys from *The After Hour* the best of luck with their musical careers.

For more information on the band, check out their website at www.purevolume.com/theafterhour. Available at the website is a demo, some band photos, bios, and more.

Photo by Pete Norwood

Matt demonstrates his singing ability, accompanied by Jay. Wednesday's Coffee House was only a taste of what is to come from Matt's band, *The After Hour*.

89.5
WSKB
Your
Campus
Radio
Station

r forward has put up some monster numbers for the Westfield State basketball team. The Belchertown native posted career highs of 33 and 16 rebounds in a key 82-61 conference victory over Bridgewater b. 1. He poured in 30 points in a victory over Framingham State. ield has a huge conference game on Tuesday, Feb. 8, when it hosts State at 8:00 p.m. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Double J

Jurkowski, Jaukovic Power Owls

WESTFIELD – Junior forward Mike Jurkowski (Belchertown) had career highs of 33 points and 16 rebounds, and senior forward Vaso Jaukovic (Serbia/Montenegro) posted a triple-double (11 points, 12 rebounds, 11 assists) to power Westfield State to an 82-61 victory over Bridgewater State on Feb. 1.

The Owls won their third straight game to improve to 9-8 overall and 5-2 in the Mass. State Conference. Bridgewater is 10-9 and 4-3.

Jurkowski, who scored 30 points last Thursday vs. Framingham, was nearly unstoppable as moved well without the ball and shot with deadly accuracy in and around the key. The smooth 6-4 forward was 16-for-23 from the field and also contributed three assists and four steals to the winning cause. Jurkowski only struggled from the line where he made just 1 of 5 free throws.

Westfield again shot well, making 57 percent of its field goal attempts, including 61 percent (17 of 28) in the second half. The Owls led 38-28 at halftime and boosted the lead to 56-37 with 12:26 remaining.

Westfield freshman guard Tony Collier (Colchester, VT) also had an outstanding game with 15 points and nine rebounds. Collier got the starting nod in place of sophomore guard Gavin Illangakoon, who was sidelined with a broken nose.

Bridgewater struggled from the field, shooting just 29 percent. Westfield dominated the boards, outrebounding the Bears, 49-27.

Junior guard Cliff Furtado (Fall River) and senior forward Chris Hayes (Weymouth) led Bridgewater with 14 points apiece. Senior point guard Brian Adamczyk (Chicopee) had 10 points and seven assists.

Westfield State 69 – MCLA 64

NORTH AOAMS - Senior forward Vaso Jaukovic and freshman reserve forward Tony Collier each scored 18 points to lead Westfield State to a 69-64 victory over MCLA on Jan. 29.

The Owls improved to 8-8 overall and 4-2 in the Mass. State Conference. They have a key conference game at home on Tuesday when they host Bridgewater State at 8:00 p.m.

Westfield withstood a 3-point barrage by MCLA (6-10, 0-6) to pull out the road victory. More than half of the Blazer's points were scored from beyond the arc, as they made 11 of 26 trey attempts. Meanwhile, they were 12-for-41 inside the arc.

The Owls led 32-27 at halftime, but the Blazers went on a 15-6 spurt at the outset of the second half for a 42-38 lead. Westfield put together an 11-0 run to take a 49-42 lead with 9:44 remaining. Collier, who hails from Colchester, Vt., came off the bench to score nine of the points during the key second-half run.

MCLA regrouped to tie the score at 55-55 with 6:12 remaining as the Blazers drained three treys and converted several offensive rebounds into easy buckets. But the Owls received clutch shooting down the stretch from Jaukovic, Collier, sophomore guard Gavin Illangakoon (13 points) and junior forward Mike Jurkowski (10 points).

With Westfield clinging to one-point leads, the 6-7 Jaukovic nailed consecutive jumpers from the deep baseline with 1:22 and 0:57 remaining. Collier sealed the victory by canning two free throws with seven seconds remaining.

Westfield again shot well from the field: 52 percent, including 61 percent in the second half. Collier was 7-for-8 from the field, including 2-for-3 from 3-point range.

Robert Mitchell led MCLA with 18 points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

Women's Basketball Stuns Bridgewater

ESTFIELD – Freshman guard Melissa Maechi ody) scored a team-high 13 and junior forward Amanda in (Westfield) had 11 points 3 rebounds to pace Westfield to a 55-51 upset victory over ewater State on Feb. 1.

The Owls avenged a 35-point 73-38) at Bridgewater on Jan. d improved to 7-9 overall and the Mass. State Conference. ewater is 13-6 and 5-2.

Maechi had a fine all around with eight rebounds, four as- two blocks and five steals. r guard Meghan McCarthy hertown) had 12 points and assists in the Owls' balanced and freshman Betty Dely tham) added 11 points.

Westfield trailed 25-23 at half- then went on a 15-3 run to take 28 lead with 11:06 remaining. ggressive Owl defense forced idgewater turnovers.

The Owls led 49-38 with 5:50 Bridgewater mounted a come- The Bears went on an 8-0 run se to within three, 49-46, with remaining. Westfield then two big buckets – a driving by Maechi and a Dely jumper 53-46 advantage.

Senior center Jessica Worden land) led the Bears with 15 s, including her 1,000th career with 6:30 remaining in the alf on a lay-in following an nds pass. She now has 1,011 points.

Women's College Basketball

Westfield State 50 – MCLA 33

NORTH AOAMS – Junior forward Amanda Chapin (Westfield/ Suffield Aeademy) posted another double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds and junior guard Meghan McCarthy (Belchertown) had 14 points, four assists and three steals to lead Westfield State to a 50-33 conferenee victory over MCLA on Jan. 29.

The Owls, 6-9 overall and 2-4 in the conference, only led 18-16 at halftime, but they outseored the host team 16-0 in the first eight minutes of the second half.

Freshman guard Melissa Maechi (Peabody) finished with 11 points, five assists and two steals for the Owls, who shot 45 percent from the field in the second half.

No player scored in double figures for the Blazers (5-12, 1-5), who shot just 23 percent field the floor..

Terrific Tuesday Home Games on Feb. 8

Women's Basketball
6:00 p.m. vs. Salem State
Women's Swimming
7:00 p.m. vs. Regis College
Men's Basketball
8:00 p.m. vs. Salem State

Junior guard Meghan McCarthy had 12 points and seven assists in the Owls' big win over Bridgewaler. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Indoor Track & Field Results

Wesleyan Invitational
Men's Results

FIRST: Peter King, shot put, 47-2.
SECONO: Oavid Richardson, high jump, 6-5.
THIRD: 4 x 400 Relay, 3:37.17.
EIGHTH: Eric Kelly, 55 hurdles, 8.36; Matt Oissell, shot put, 42-10.
NINTH: Zack Bitzer, 400, 53.46.

Wesleyan Invitational
Men's Results

SECONO: Tessa Oonoghue, long jump, 17-6.
THIRO: Tessa Oonoghue, 5-0; Jen Howard, 5-0.
FOURTH: Tessa Oonoghue, 200, 27.12.
SEVENTH: Heather Wenninger, 3000, 11:30.64.

Women's Swim Team Raises Record To 6-2

The Westfield State women's swimming and diving team raised its record to 6-2 with recent victories over St. Joseph, Conn., 133-112, and Salem State, 134-91.

Westfield's final home meet is Tuesday, Feb. 8, when it hosts Regis College at 7:00 p.m.

Oouble winners vs. St. Joseph were junior Vanessa Morton in the 50 yard freestyle and the 100 yard freestyle and freshman Kara Phelan in the 50 backstroke and 200 backstroke. Morton's time of 26.04 in the 50 freestyle set a new St. Jospeh pool record.

Also finishing first were freshman Renee Kruszyna (200 freestyle), freshman Bridget Hartley (50 breaststroke), sophomore Marianne Wilson (one-meter diving), and the 200 medley relay of Phelan, Katie Piquette, Shannon McMahon and Morton.

Morton and Kruszyna were double winners in the Salem meet. Kruszyna won the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke and Morton touched the wall first in the 100 freestyle and 50 freestyle.

Other individual winners were: Lindsey Bartosz (50 backstroke), Katie Piquette (50 breaststroke), Rachel Webb (100 butterfly), and Marianne Wilson (one-meter diving.

♥ Got nothing to do on a Wednesday night?

♥ Want to meet new people?

♥ Want to impress others with your vocal talents?

Then come and share the love at the...

♥Valentines Day Social♥

February 16th
8:00pm to
12:00am
Scanlon Living
Room

♥Music,
♥Food,
♥Socializing
and...
♫Karaoke!!!♫

$2 before 11:00pm & $3 after 11:00pm

♥For more info, please call Lucila @ 413.572.7666♥

Westfield State College

Explore Experience Excel

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Deep Thoughts By Jack Handy

"Whenever I need to "get away," I just get away in my mind. I go to my imaginary spot, where the beach is perfect and the water is perfect and the weather is perfect. The only bad thing there are the flies. They're terrible!"

"Even though he was an enemy of mine, I had to admit that what he had accomplished was a brilliant piece of strategy. First, he punched me, then he kicked me, then he punched me again."

"I hope, when they die, cartoon characters have to answer for their sins."

For more Deep Thoughts visit:
www.erikandanna.com/Humor/DeepThoughts/deep_thoughts_htm

MISSING

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! IT APPEARS AS THOUGH OUR COMIC ARTISTS HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED! PLEASE HELP US! WE NEED COMICS MORE THAN THE FACULTY NEEDS A CONTRACT! NO REAL ARTISTIC TALENT IS NEEDED, JUST A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR AND THE DEDICATION TO DRAW ONE COMIC A WEEK!

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks

Jan. 31 - The Cookout & Sbaun of the Dead
Feb. 1 - Resident Evil: Apocalypse & Wimbledon
Feb. 2 - Little Black Book & Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
Feb. 3 - Little Black Book & Troy
Feb. 4-6 - Anchorman & Resident Evil: Apocalypse

Attention Students!
Longing for love?
Friendship?
Companionship?
Look for the new personal's box located in the Ely Main Lounge starting this week!

February is Black History Month!

Be sure to pick up a speaker and event schedule in the Ely Main Lounge!

Mon 1/30	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm		
Tue 2/01	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	Men's Basketball Game Against Bridgewater State - WOOD - 8:00pm
Wed 2/02	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm
Thurs 2/03	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Sodexo Specialty Dinner - DC - 4:00pm Movie: "Amistead" - EML - 7:00pm	Mr. Bank's Antique Display - DC - 4:00m
Fri 2/04	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 2/05	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight Men's Basketball @ Worcester State - 4:00pm Women's Basketball @ West. CT State - 1:00pm		
Sun 2/06	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm		

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X | February 7, 2005 | Issue XV

Photo by Mike Coughlin

Textbook costs on the rise pg. 1

WSC student recovers from surgery "Comfortable in her own skin" conludes pg. 1

Going once, going twice... Courtney Hall benefit auction pg. 1

SGA announces changes to DC pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | February 14, 2005 | Issue XVI

On-campus mugging prompts concern

By Lisandra L. Billings
News Editor

The Westfield State College community was shaken after last Saturday, Feb. 5 when a female student was assaulted on the walk back to her residence hall.

According to Public Safety, the victim, whose name has not been released, was traveling on the path between the new dorm construction line and Commuter Lot at approximately 8:00 p.m. when a man wearing stone-washed jeans, an off-white hooded sweat-shirt and blue sunglasses attempted to rob her.

The suspect, who was seen standing next to a blue car in the Commuter Lot before the incident took place, was described as a white male, approximately six feet tall and weighed approximately 250 pounds.

Westfield State College Police Chief, Paul Scannell, said that the victim had no money on her and was treated at the hospital after the incident.

Scannell said that students should walk on well-lit paths and take the shuttle, which runs by every dorm and to South Lot approximately every fifteen minutes, as much as possible.

"These crimes are very rare to have happen on our campus," he said. "Students should be more aware of their surroundings."

Scannell said that he feels like the police coverage on campus, both in residence halls and outside, is exeellent and doesn't feel the need to

Robbery- Page 2

Madness in the Woodward Center

By Katelyn Kennedy &
Nicole LeBlanc
Voice Reporters

WOODWARD- Students filled the stands to cheer on the athletes at Westfield State's first ever "Midnight Madness" held Feb. 2 from 9 p.m. until 12 a.m. at the Woodward Center, the event's purpose was to involve students in the upcoming spring sports season.

The activities ineluded a 3 on 3-basketball tournament, WSC cheering routine, a football toss, and other various competitions in which prizes were rewarded.

Midnight Madness gave students a chance to climb the brand new rock wall. Tim Dexter, who previously took the rock climbing class said, "Once people see how great it is, Scott Cook, the rock climbing instructor, wants to start intramurals to rock climb and have a good time."

This is the first year with the new wall, and there is a new class that students can take to learn how to use the wall. Giving students an opportunity to climb the wall outside of a classroom was one way to interest people in taking the class or pos-

Madness-Page 3

Can you say Dynasty?

By Kevin McGarty
Special to the Voice

It's official, New England sports fans now have their first dynasty of the new century. This past Sunday, for the third time in four years, the Patriots captured the super bowl title, silencing any of the critics they had left, and solidifying themselves as the best team in the NFL.

The Patriots defense came out on fire, sacking Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb on third down and forcing a three-and-out on the game's opening drive. Philadelphia's defense played well also, as the game went scoreless into the second quarter.

Philadelphia drove down the field on an impressive drive, and capped it off with a touchdown pass my McNabb to tight end L.J. Smith.

The Patriots showed perseverance, however, scoring late in the second quarter. Tom Brady hit David Givens wide open in the end zone to tie the game at 7-7 going into the half.

New England opened the second half with another scoring drive, ending with another Brady touchdown pass, this time to linebacker Mike Vrabel.

Philadelphia answered with a Brian Westbrook touchdown, but again the Patriots answered right back. Corey Dillon pounded the ball into the end zone on a short run play, allowing the Patriots to retake the lead 21-14.

Off a Tedy Bruschi interception of McNabb, Adam Vinatieri added three with a field goal to put the Pats up by ten.

Philly drove into New England territory late in the fourth quarter, and scored on a McNabb pass to receiver Greg Lewis, exploiting the Patriots inexperienced secondary as Lewis beat rookie Dexter Reid, who was filling in for injured starter Eugene Wilson.

The score pulled the Eagles to within three, but a failed onsides kick attempt all but sealed the victory for New England.

After three "clock-eating" run plays, Josh miller executed a superior "pooch" punt, pinning the Eagles inside their own ten yard line

Patriots- Page 3

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

The Woodward Center hosted a number of students looking to get in some athletic action late at night.

Campus programs celebrate Black History month

By Courtney Loftus
Voice Reporter

Musical performances, film screenings and guest lectures are among the campus events scheduled throughout February in honor of Black History Month.

The events, which are all open to the public, were planned by a committee consisting of about 20 members of the faculty and staff and organized by Associate Director of the Campus Center Andrew Johnson.

"They're great programs," Johnson said, "provided that we have attendance."

On February 16 at 7 p.m. jazz vocalist Montenia will perform in the Ely Main Lounge. The following night is Gospel Night in Scanlon Banquet Hall at 7 p.m. and will include performances by Westfield State's Urban Education Gospel Choir, Saint John's Choir, and the Progressive Community Chapel Ensemble.

Gifted, the children's choir from the Community Music School in Springfield, will perform on February 23 at 1 p.m.

BHM- 2

Think you put the 'cock' in 'cocky'? Heres the book for you
pg. 12

Three Days Grace urges you to engage in illegal activities
pg. 10

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Photo by Mike Coughlin

Randolph W. Bromery gives a lecture as part of Black History month

BHM

At 7 p.m. that night Dr. Carlton Pickron, associate dean of the Academic Achievement Center, will host a screening of a recently aired television documentary about the late Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress. Both events will take place in the Ely Main Lounge.

At 6 p.m. on February 24, the Third World Organization will hold its annual Soul Food Dinner in the Third World Room for which tickets must be purchased. Rudolph Banks, who brought his African-American antique exhibit to the Dining Commons earlier this month, will be at the dinner with a portion of his collection.

"His life experience is so significant, in just black history, but history in general."

Carlton Pickron speaking of Dr. Randolph Bromery

The final scheduled event is a dance with live entertainment in the Ely Main Lounge on February 25 at 9 p.m.

Among the events that have already occurred was a lecture given by Dr. Randolph Bromery, a former Tuskeegee airman who became chancellor at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and later served as acting president at Westfield State. Most recently he served as president of Springfield College. The lecture was entitled "From Segregation and Depression to University Chancellor and College President without a Basketball."

"His life experience is so significant," Pickron said of Bromery, "in not just black history, but history in general."

The observance of what was originally Black History Week was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian and founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1976 it was expanded and established as Black History Month.

One of the main purposes of the celebration, Pickron said, is to educate everyone "about what contributions black people have made to the development of this country."

For information regarding tickets for the Soul Food Dinner call 572-5661 and for any other inquiries regarding the Black History Month program, contact the Campus Center at 572-5648.

The Voice wants to sex you up

THE VOICE PRESENTS:
The First Annual Westfield State College Sex Survey!

In honor of St. Valentine's Day we went out on campus armed with three questions and little shame. Our mission? To find out what really goes on beneath the sheets of Westfield State College students. The results? Shocking.

Question # 1: What is your favorite sexual position?
Doggy Style: 13%
Missionary: 11%
Cowgirl (When the girl is on top): 7%
Staplegun: 3%
Standing Up: 2%
Honorable Mention: DVDA, feet to Shoulder, Scissor, Reverse Jam, 69

Question # 2: Where is the strangest place you've done it on campus?
Dorm Room: 14%
Never Had Sex On Campus: 11%
5th floor Courtney Lounge: 4%
Dorm Bathroom: 4%
Stacks: 3%
Campus Voice Couch: 2%
Room With People: 2%
Honorable Mention: Locker Room, South Lot, Laundry Room, Elevator, Church

Question # 3: Which Professor on campus would you most like to get it on with?
None: 16%
Professor Diana: 3%
Professor Newman: 2%
Professor Konig: 2%
Professor Francis: 2%
Professor Paulman: 2%
Professor Sossaman: 2%
Honorable Mention: Walsh, Steinberg, Duncan, Dreuter, Abate, Bodner, Aeschliman, Tetrault, St. Jean, Laing, Treduell, Giordano, Filas, Wetting, Gardner, Fouts, Baillergeon, Henley, Daniels, Ecke, Tonsey, Naron, Berkowitz, Keefer

Robbery

have more patrolling on campus.

On Tuesday, Feb. 8 there was a student rumor on that there had been a second, related assault, but Scannell denied these rumors and said that the first attempted robbery was an isolated incident.

Scannell said that the Westfield State College police are working with the Massachusetts State Police to solve the case as quickly as possible and encourages any students who may see anything suspicious to report it to Public Safety immediately.

Society of Professional Journalists meeting
Communication Dept.
Commune

Feb. 17th
7 p.m.

Madness

sibly start an intramural team.

The basketball tournament began at 9 p.m. with the qualifying rounds. Players rested in between rounds with other competitions and activities. Both cheerleading squads, the competition squad and the game squad, did a two-minute routine that was followed by an introduction of the spring sports teams.

Captain Sarah Raymond, a competition squad captain, said, "It's a great way to get kids out and aware of the sports going on here at Westfield." As she and the other captain, Danielle Impresscia pointed out most students are not aware that WSC has 2 cheerleading squads.

> **"It's a great way to get kids out and aware of the sports going on here at Westfield."**
>
> **Sarah Raymond**

Dr. Arthur Jackson, Vice President of the Student Affairs, and student Matt Curren, tied 13 to 13 in a basketball shootout. The tiebreaker consisted of two 3-point shots; both got the first shot in and missed the second. Running a little behind schedule they decided to leave it at a tie.

"It's lovely to get the new gym into use. We need more events like this and more groups to use it more. The rims are tight. We tied, a tie is better then a loss. Coming in and having a good time is better then winning any day", said Jackson when asked about the event.

Midnight Madness proved to be successful in its first year., giving a positive start to the new spring sports season.

Patriots

with under a minute left and no timeouts. McNabb failed to get his team any further than their own line of scrimmage, and then was intercepted by Pats safety Rodney Harrison.

The Patriots kneeled to run out the clock, and had once again become world champions.

Westfield State College students proudly sported Patriots clothing all day, and many put homework and other activities aside to tune in for the game.

Students celebrated the victory in their dorm rooms, in the hallways, and even outside. Following the Red Sox World Series victory, the Patriots win Sunday concluded a very satisfying and fun year for New England sports fans.

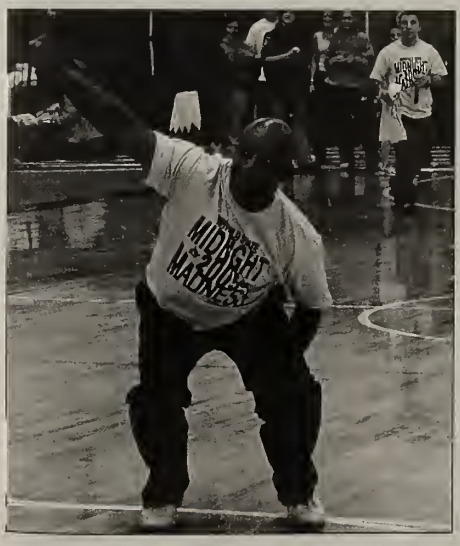


photo by: Mike Coughlin

Looks like Westfield has its own "Dr. J" as VP Dr. Jackson takes to the court in a shoot out with President of SGA Matthew Curren. The shoot-out ended in a tie. For a full pictorial turn to page 14.

Voice of the Week

Rose Puffer

Role at WSC: Cashier at the Grill

Favorite part of the job: She loves seeing the kids.

Years spent working at WSC: Five

Profession before WSC: She owned a restaraunt for twelve years named The Dutchmans.

Favorite Movie: Titanic

Favorite TV Show: Seinfeld

Thoughts on Valentines Day: It is nice when you are young.

Roses Valentine: Her husband of forty-four years.

As a result of Subway being closed, we want to keep the grill open later for the kids to eat. I think it would please the kids who are busy at night if the grill was open longer.

Rose would also like to thank the students for waiting patiently for their food and thanks the night crew who are all hard workers.

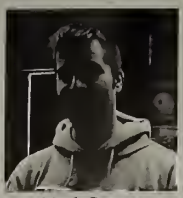
Voice of the Week compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Spring Break 2005. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield
115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)
Phone Number: 568-0429
Sundays:
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages -
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Voices Overheard

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue...



Mark Green
Mathematics
Junior

"Sugar is sweet and so are you."

Lumber Jack-Rue
Elementary Education
Freshman

"I Love Poker and how 'bout you?"

Laura Kingsley
Early Childhood-Ed
Junior

"California soon, then I'll be at the zoo!"

Bill McDonald
Mass Comm
Freshman

"All the girls want me, and if I was single I would too."

Voices Overheard compiled by Bridget Gleason

$5,000 Scholarships for Enviromentalists

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship

STUDY SUSTAINABILITY? CARE ABOUT CLEAN AIR? FOCUSED ON

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If you're interested in being plugged into a growing network of enviromentally-committed students across the country and you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, you should check out the Udall Scholarship.

Eighty $5,000 scholarships are available each year for:

-Undergraduate sophomores and juniors in fields related to the enviroment

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To be eligible for the Udall Scholarship, you must be nominated by your institutions FacRep. To find your FacRep, and application materials please visit www.udall.gov/p scholarship.htm

Deadline: March 3, 2005

EMAIL MILAGE@UDALL.GOV WITH QUESTIONS

First Lady visits school to promote anti-gan pro-

BY ELISE CASTELLI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BALTIMORE -- When her husband announced the Helping America's Youth initiative during last week's State of the Union address, Laura Bush found herself with a new role -- heading a $150 million program.

While the one-time teacher and librarian has gone to schools to promote such administration policies as No Child Left Behind, her visits are now related to a program of her own that, if successful, could reduce violence and gang activity among at-risk youth, especially minority boys.

On Tuesday, she stopped by George Washington Elementary School in Baltimore, where her discussion of the correlation among classroom management, behavior, learning and success in life was well received by the 100 students, teachers, community activists and state officials who gathered to hear her.

``Research shows that children who are overly aggressive as early as the first grade are at a greater risk for delinquency, dropping out of school, drug abuse and depression later in life," she told the audience. "Here in the Baltimore public school system, children with behavioral problems in poorly managed first-grade classrooms were up to 20 times more likely to be severely aggressive in middle school compared to similar children in well-managed first-grade classrooms."

She held up one of the school's approaches to teaching proper behavior -- the ``good behavior game" -- as a model for keeping children in school.

Shortly before her noontime speech, Bush observed a first-grade class engaged in the game during a reading lesson. The children were divided into teams, and any child who acted out while the class completed a worksheet would get the entire team a check for bad behavior.

As Bush glided among the students, they focused their attention to sorting words into categories and winning the game for their team.

``This team-based structure uses peer encouragement to help children follow rules and learn how to be good students," Bush said. ``The students quickly learn that their success is tied to their team. They count on each other and they teach each other to follow the rules."

> **"The team-based structure uses peer encouragement to help children follow rules and learn how to be good students. The students quickly learn that their success is tied to their team. They count on each other and they teach each other to follow the rules."**
> **-Laura Bush**

The game is part of a program created by Dr. Sheppard Kellam, a senior fellow at the American Institutes for Research, called ``Whole Day First Grade." Introduced 20 years ago in 24 Baltimore schools, the program focuses on improving educators' teaching skills, classroom management skills and communication with families.

``The risk factors that Mrs. Bush has referred to -- early aggressive disruptive behavior -- are highly correlated with academic achievement," Kellam said Tuesday. In her remarks, Bush noted that according to Kellam's research, 86 percent of at-risk youth who participated in the Whole Day program graduated from high school, compared with 19 percent of those who did not.

Kellam said that government at all levels needs to respond if programs like his, which links public health research and education, are to move across the country.

Teachers were hopeful that the first lady's new policy role would encourage children to stay in school and away from gangs.

In this urban school surrounded by blocks of burned-out and boarded-up row houses, visits from political figures are rare, said Monique Daniel, a fifth-grade teacher whose students observed the speech.

``This is not something (students) usually encounter in their everyday lives, to see the president's wife speak in reference to students," Daniel said.

"Maybe it will show them that someone besides their teachers and parents do care about them and their future."

Fashion designers in short pants

BY ROBIN GIVAHN
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK--The first days of New York fashion week typically are filled with designers whose reputations extend no further than their small circle of friends. They can count the number of collections they have created on one hand--sometimes on one finger. They are at the beginning of their careers, without famous lineage, licensing deals, celebrity clients, a fragrance or buzz. Occasionally they are without a clue.

These new designers are almost always the unassuming ones in the room. They are determined to make a case for their collection if only through a strong handshake and well-practiced eye contact. They are so polite: Thank you so much for coming!

Their more famous peers usually present their collections under the tents in Bryant Park. Others, confident in their ability to draw a crowd, show farther afield--and their rooms are always full. They commandeer the best models.

The little guys make do. Their models are so-so, and the show location is whatever happens to be free or cheap. Here, you are unlikely to be met at the door with surly attitude or a velvet rope. There will be no thick-necked gym rat barely containing his 'roid rage moonlighting as a security guard. (My brother, it is only a fashion show. The editors are not packing heat.)

In the past, it seemed like the designers who show in the dark corners of New York always offered a somber, angry, disheveled vision. Women looked like streetwalking urchins and men resembled surly, drug-addled thugs.

But for fall 2005, the unknowns are presenting clothes that are neat, understated and polished. Some are informed by ethnic costumes, others are entranced by the rigors of formal tailoring. Some are so good it is startling; other collections are bad for reasons that passeth all understanding.

Perhaps the most famous unknowns are the designers from the Bravo series ``Project Runway." They have been vying for a $100,000 prize and a Banana Republic mentorship. The show taped its finale Friday, with four designers presenting collections. One designer was a red herring; there are only three finalists. An educated guess would have Jay McCarroll, Kara Saun and Wendy Pepper in the runway showdown. One must assume that Austin Scarlett will be eliminated, unless the judges decide that dressing women like a drag version of Mae West is a commercially viable idea.

Pepper continues to struggle with a dowdy sensibility. Saun's work is remarkably detailed but often too self-conscious. McCarroll mixes musical inspiration into a pastiche of colors and textures to create the strongest blend of originality, salesmanship and aesthetic coherence. It's hard not to find perverse amusement in the fact that McCarroll worked in the porn industry, which seems to have given him a unique advantage in stirring up the kind of sexual provocation on which the fashion industry thrives.

The mention of porn leads to Dick. Dick by Richard, Fashion label or porn flick?

Intrigued guests filled an abandoned firehouse on the Lower East Side Friday to get the answer. The menswear collection, by Richard Ruiz, is a mix of punk images, traditional tailoring and ethnic flourishes such as African prints trimming a shirt collar. A red Ultrasuede wrap is embellished with safety pins and promotional buttons. A green and blue plaid wrap over a tailored blazer has pinstripes delineated with hundreds of tiny brass safety pins.

Ruiz's thoughtfully conceived Dick is a nonchalant blend of Everyman sportswear, including coveralls and work shirts, overlaid with rebellious references. It is also a mix of dueling sensibilities. Banal basics are paired with aggressive details. It is both formal and informal, simultaneously grown-up and childlike.

Designers such as Thom Browne and Tomer Gendler envision a customer who may still have a modified Mohawk, body piercings and tattoos, but who also wants to wear three-piece suits, hand-tailored coats and lush cashmere sweaters. This customer finds tradition subversive.

Gendler chose the Polish consulate for his show Saturday to contrast the sober shade of his clothes, inspired by postwar Europe, against its gilded salons.

Gendler likes lean silhouettes. His trousers, jackets and shirts are enhanced with subtle details. There is contrasting piping on the back pocket of a pair of trousers. At the shoulder of a navy shirt, a velvet leaf is pressed between crisp cotton and sheer organza. Gendler champions cropped trousers buttoned at the ankle. He is quick to acknowledge that the idea is extreme, but like any beginning designer, he is idealistic--in his case, idealistic enough to believe he can convince men that breeches are a reasonable notion.

These new menswear designers have somehow gotten it into their heads that men have been wearing their trousers too long. Browne wants to crop them at the ankle, too, but he isn't advocating anything akin to a pair of plus fours. Browne is known for his custom-made suits, priced in the vicinity of $3,000. But for the last year, he has been producing a hand-made ready-to-wear collection inspired by the style of John F. Kennedy and Americana. ``It's JCPenney-Sears catalogue inspired," Browne says.

The armholes of his jackets are positioned high on the torso. The waist is also high and he cuts his trousers off at the ankle.

His showroom in the meatpacking neighborhood is dominated by gray, navy and the occasional dash of sky blue. ``I always use a muted palette," he says. ``There are a hundred shades of gray. I could do a whole collection in gray." The sober hues hide impish details and teasing winks. A navy coat with brass buttons is trimmed inside with red-white-and-blue-striped ribbon. A traditional suit is cut from fabric typically used for a mackintosh--so the suit is water-resistant. A cashmere coat is lined with the same nylon used to make football jerseys.

Browne's collection is eccentric. Most men probably will never feel comfortable in short pants or a squared-off jacket that sits just at the hips. But some fellows will look at the schoolboy sweaters in eight-ply cashmere, the flannel gardening pants with the elegant knee patches and feel right at home.

Perhaps what is so reassuring about these menswear designers is that they seem so at ease with their collections. They aren't compromising their vision to make their collections palatable to the broadest clientele. In many ways, that is the luxury of being new and small.

The new wave of menswear designers aren't investing in sloppiness, and designers are championing a similar kind of polish for young women. Sari Gueron's presentation Thursday was a splendid collection of lace skirts with delicate tops, a navy halter dress with a balloon hem and a simple black dress with a U-shaped neckline trimmed in ruffles.

If there is anything designers such as Gueron, Richard Chai and Thakoon Panichgul have in common, it is their celebration of a kind of prettiness that previously might have been defined as weakness or fragility. Chai focuses on tailoring, whether a trim skirt or a coat belted with a sash that twists into a blossom of satin. Panichgul, whose collection is called Thakoon, plays with intriguing fabrics--such as clear plastic rendered to resemble lace--and proportions. Squared-off jackets sit atop slim skirts or skirts with gentle tucks that encourage soft movement. If anything goes missing in their collections, it is humor.

Giberson alone seems interested in eliciting a chuckle. Within the construction of each garment in her collection ``Magnification," a single element was exaggerated. A blouse had French cuffs that dominated nearly the entire forearm. Balloon sleeves on a black chiffon dress swung like sails in the breeze. At times the notion was executed with great skill and humor. At other times, it seemed trite and awkward, such as a trench coat with an epaulette that extended from the shoulder to the wrist, or a pair of trousers with slash pockets that ran from the waistline to the knee.

Students see video games as harmless, study finds

By Daniel de Vise
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON--The assignment seemed almost too simple for a bunch of University of Maryland students. Researchers showed them images from a pair of over-the-top video games, one an "extreme" golf outing with strippers as caddies, the other a blood-and-entrails affair. Then, they were asked if what they had seen could be harmful.

The answer, by and large, was no.

A study by Maryland Prof. Melanie Killen suggests that many young adults are oblivious to the impact of raunch and gore rendered in ever-en'sper detail by the current crop of video games. And the more hours they play, the less sensitive they are to the potential consequences.

In the busy field of research on the harmful effects of video games, Killen's work breaks new ground by peering inside the heads of the players, asking students what they think about the games, rather than simply observing their behavior after playing.

"The game doesn't make people violent--it's just a game," said one subject, a 19-year-old woman, in a confidential interview with Killen's research team. "If they're violent, it's something wrong with them."

Killen's study also is unusual in focusing on stereotypes in video games: women as sex toys, men as muscle-bound killing machines. This topic, in her view, has been neglected in previous research because its effects are comparatively subtle.

The study has been presented at three professional conferences and will be submitted for publication this month.

"Stereotyping very easily leads to discrimination and prejudice," Killen said. "So you start thinking of all women as wanting to be strippers, or you start thinking of all men as violent."

Several years of research on video-game violence have documented a link to impulsive behavior, shortened attention span and low-level aggression in general. More frequent play leads to greater problems. Adolescents and young adults are seen as especially vulnerable because they are less likely to recognize the source of these impulses.

"The game doesn't make people violent - it's just a game. If they're violent, it's something wrong with them."
-A 19-year-old test subject

Much was made of the fact that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the 1999 Columbine High School shooters, were obsessive players of the video game Doom. But researchers say the more likely consequences are simple acts of delinquency, such as starting a fight, breaking a window or skipping a class.

Killen is studying how young gamers tell right from wrong at a time when the traditional demarcation between good and evil in the games themselves seems to be breaking down. The trend is for the player to be cast as villain. Consider the Grand Theft Auto franchise, which rewards players for stealing cars and running down prostitutes.

"Things that we would never allow on television, and probably not even in the movies, we have them in video games," said Killen, a psychology professor who trained at the University of California at Berkeley and previously taught at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Killen's research comes at a time when the visceral impact of video games is greater than ever. In past decades, the bullets looked like blips and the blood and guts were cartoonish. Today, the graphics are of nearly photographic quality, said Craig Anderson, an Iowa State University psychology professor who is among the top scholars studying video-game violence.

"Not only are they more technologically sophisticated, they're more personal," Anderson said. "Now you're killing aliens one-on-one, and they bleed, and they explode and their heads explode."

Anderson said Killen's research confirms his sense that young players consider themselves immune to the mayhem.

"Any of us who do this kind of research certainly face the wrath of the ubiquitous 14-year-old who doesn't believe there's anything harmful in anything that they do," Anderson said.

Killen and fellow researchers at the University of Maryland's Human Development Department interviewed more than 100 college students, whose average age was 19, for 45 minutes each. They showed them images from a series of imaginary video games, each one modeled on a familiar genre in the gaming industry.

One was a golf game replete with scantily clad women and thuggish violence, reminiscent of the Xbox game Outlaw Golf. The second was a typical guns-and-ammo game, with the user assigned to seek and obliterate terrorists. The third, included for comparison purposes, was an innocuous surfing game without objectionable content.

The students were asked to complete a 10-minute questionnaire on their video-game habits.

Killen's research found that most subjects understood that the two over-the-top games depicted negative themes and harmful stereotypes. But they failed to see how that content could harm them.

Many subjects reasoned that there could be no negative consequence from playing the games unless the player then proceeded to go out and shoot people in the head or attack them with a golf club.

"You're not really going out and killing people," one 19-year-old man told his interviewers. "So, I mean, it's just like fantasy."

Less frequent players, typically women, saw more negative consequences from the stereotypes. More frequent players, typically male, saw fewer.

When asked whether male and female stereotypes were "not all right," considering the potential negative effect on players, more than 60 percent of infrequent players agreed, and more than 60 percent of avid players disagreed.

"It's not like they were in denial about stereotypes," Killen said. "But they for some reason think it's not going to affect them."

Nigeria's thriving film industry gets a showcase

By Neely Tucker
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON--One of the rarest things to see in an American cineplex is a film by Africans, about Africans, starring Africans, with a script by Africans.

The Oscar contender "Hotel Rwanda," you say? Well, the director is Irish, the starring actors American or British (Sophie Okonedo is British), and the complicated financing mostly American.

And so this week's debut of "Behind Closed Doors," a Nigerian made-and-produced melodrama at the AFI Silver, was altogether unique. The film kicks off the theater's month-long African Film Showcase in suburban Washington, providing a rare--and rough-hewn--look at pop cinema in the world's most populous black nation.

The four films in the series are all from the chaotic hustle of "Nollywood," Nigeria's thriving straight-to-video film industry. Each year, more than 400 movies are slapped together, copied onto videocassettes and sold in open-air markets there for about $3. Almost all are shot for less than $15,000 in under two weeks, and they look like it.

But the birth of Nollywood, in the Nigerian commercial capital of Lagos, in the early 1990s represents the first mass-market films by and about Africans and marketed domestically. The raw energy of the movies--and the flurry in which they are shot, filmed and sold--is a kind of grass-roots creative revolution on a continent where stories have been told for generations but rarely committed to film.

"They're very imaginative, they're fast and loose and ... there's a sense of joy and fun about it all," says Gabriel Wardell, the programmer at the AFI Silver who booked the series with the help of the media and entertainment company XXIV/VII Africa. "They can have some overtly slapstick humor or they can be overly dramatic, but they showcase some emerging talent."

-Photo by Neely Tucker of The Washington Post
Nigerian comic actor Nkem Owoh in "Osuofia in London." A film festival outside Washington offers a look at pop cinema in Nigeria this February.

African moviemaking is a difficult proposition by any standard. A few African directors, such as Senegal's Ousmane Sembene, make art-house films that are shown almost entirely in Western film festivals. But they are rarely seen in Africa, in part because venues for feature films are hard to come by. South Africa, Zimbabwe and a few other countries have movie theaters as nice or nicer than most in the United States, but they are not the norm.

Nigerian producers, directors and actors, frustrated by the lack of market for their wares, began to go straight to the people in the early 1990s by shooting on video (later with digital cameras) and selling their movies, cassette by cassette, in open-air stalls and markets.

In 1992, a straight-to-video film called "Living in Bondage," about human sacrifice, was filmed in English and became a huge hit.

"That was how the explosion started," says Richard Mofe-Damijo, 43, one of Nollywood's biggest heartthrobs and one of the stars of "Behind Closed Doors." "It just went crazy after that."

The films--mostly broad comedies or melodramas in which magic and the supernatural featured prominently--were shipped to other English-speaking countries in Africa and brought to Europe and North America by expatriates.

Today, the industry, centered in the Surulere district of Lagos, is worth at least $50 million annually.

"We have the stories to tell, thousands of them, but there's a lot to be done," says Charles Novia, a popular director who has 28 films to his credit. "We need to be more in tune with the new cinematic techniques across the world; we need courses in production techniques. But what is most striking is how popular our films are, not just among our fellow Nigerians, but across the continent. It's mind-blowing."

7th Annual Dining Etiquette

Each spring, about 100 students join together in Scanlon Banquet Hall, wearing their best, to brush up on their fine dining skills at the annual Dining Etiquette Dinner. For a low cost, students are treated to a 7-course meal, and learn how to get ahead when dining with prospective employers. On February 24 of this year, Dining Etiquette will once again feature etiquette expert Carol A. McGuiggan to teach the dos and don'ts of dining. In the 7th year of the dinner, sponsored by Career Services and Residential Life, the program has always sold out. McGuiggan offers tips that can be helpful in any interview. Students, especially juniors and seniors about to enter internships or the workforce, are strongly encouraged to attend this enlightening event. For tickets and other information, call Career Services at X5206 or stop by in the Lammers Hall Annex.

OPINION

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

I am writing in response to Pete Norwood's article on monogomy in the February 7th edition.

I just want to say that as a female student at WSC, I really enjoyed reading Pete Norwood's article on monogomy. I haven't heard very many guys express the opinion that he did. It's a rarity, especially on a college campus.

I definitely agree with his points. These days it does seem that girls are more loose than they should be and that guys are only looking for loose girls. It seems to me that many girls have either lost respect for themselves or are trying to do what they think to fit in with other students. Because of this, guys have lost respect for girls. Guys tend to treat girls as if they are animals on the hunt. They chase their prey and once they have caught it and taken what they wanted they move on. And if they don't get what they want after saying all the right things to get into her head, he simply walks away and moves on to the next girl he thinks will give it up. Yes, I too am writing out of experience, but I will not go into detail.

College girls with morals and self respect are a dying breed. I can almost understand why. It appears that when a girl refuses to give into the expectations set upon her by the opposite sex she automatically becomes invisible. It makes it harder when you don't live on campus and are not a party girl to meet people in general, nevermind trying to find a guy who is willing to be in a monogomous relationship.

I do understand that it is not only guys that refuse to be in one-partner relationships. I believe that the character of Samantha on *Sex and the City* may have had a bit of an influence on the female mind. Girls now see their choices of sleeping with many partners and doing as they please as a show of power (if men can do it, women can too). All around it just causes everything to be worse.

This campus is full of girls who are struggling to fit in and in turn lose respect for themselves in hopes that they will make more friends and catch the attention of the guys. In return we have guys who lose respect for girls and so it becomes one big mess that all revolves around sex.

I myself am glad that I know what I am waiting for when it comes to sharing the intimate experience. I just wish that other people would see that it is worth the wait.

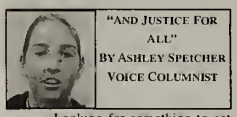
- Amy Plasse

To the Editors:

I write with the hope of providing a counter-balancing opinion to inappropriate remarks about Dr. Lopes that appeared in your January 31st article – "Academic Affairs Needs to Shape Up". Dr. Lopes, and other administrators now departed from Academic Affairs, understood that bureaucracy need not be a pejorative term if its practitioners use the bureaucratic structure as a way of organizing for efficiency and effectiveness rather than control. His effective management cut through bureaucratic procedures that often waste hundreds of dollars of staff time on "control" issues and insignificant trifles such as $40 travel requests or $16.75 reimbursement requests - to note just a few recent examples that have bedeviled me and wasted considerable staff time. Others are entitled to their opinions. My opinion is that this campus needs more of his so-called "muddled" approach to management, not less.

- Brian Hubbard

The chicken or the egg?



"And Justice For All."
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

Looking for something to eat rather than the food at the DC? Rev. Al Sharpton would advise against you going to KFC. The former Presidential candidate has joined forces with PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) to boycott KFC, which is owned by Yum Brand Inc. The 800 million chickens that are raised and then killed each year for KFC are being abused and mistreated, and Sharpton has joined PETA's boycott against the restaurant until new standards are adopted. Sharpton made an eight-minute video that will be shown outside of KFC's across the country. In the video, Sharpton criticizes KFC's marketing that is mainly aimed at African Americans living in urban neighborhoods. "KFC is not black owned but it sure knows to market heavily to African Americans, obviously hoping we won't care about what they do to the underdog, or in this case, the underchicken."

A spokesman for KFC responded by saying "PETA is an organization more interested in promoting vegetarianism than the truth." Apparently you shouldn't care about how the chickens are killed, just content with the fact that it is there on your plate.

Another company under Yum Brands ownership is Taco Bell and this company is also no stranger to a boycott. Workers in Immokalee, Florida formed a coalition that is made up of farmers who hand pick the tomatoes that end up on your taco, or burrito. They contacted Taco Bell because they were earning sub-poverty wages and were working in abusive conditions. When Taco Bell failed to respond, they launched a boycott in early 2001 which is on-going still today. They even planned a 2005 Taco Bell Truth Tour which will take place February 28th-March 5th, with farmers traveling to cities in the South and Midwest to help raise awareness of the boycott, and hopefully bring enough attention to pressure the company to increase wages and improve working conditions. If the company increased the wages one penny for every pound of tomatoes picked, the organization said it would be enough to pull its workers out of its sub-poverty status.

> **"KFC is not black owned but it sure knows to market heavily to African Americans, obviously hoping we won't care about what they do to the underdog, or in this case, the underchicken."**
>
> **- Rev. Al Sharpton**

With the company posting impressive profits, it seems incomprehensible that it is holding back paying its workers the fair wages they deserve. KFC has been gaining momentum worldwide, especially in China where customers can order bamboo shoots or lotus roots instead of the USA-approved coleslaw. So what's the reason the company has been so resistant to paying fair wages? "KFC has been by far the most stubborn corporation we have attempted to work with," said PETA's president, Ingrid Newkirk. At least with McDonald's, the burger conglomerate has been cooperating with PETA in response to its "Unhappy Meal" campaign. The company now agrees to buy its eggs from farmers who supply their hens with more cage space, water, and fresh air and is now working to kill its meat in a more humane fashion known as controlled atmosphere killing.

Even if you're not a vegetarian, the way an animal is killed is still an important issue. It may seem trivial since the animal is going to be killed in the end, but PETA is continuing to work hard to ensure that these living creatures are treated with respect. Until then, it seems the DC will have to do.

Until that day, though, may you and your own eat gravy.

File Photo

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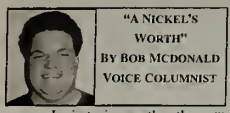
All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed) because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Apartment problems wreak havoc



"A Nickel's Worth"
By Bob McDonald
Voice Columnist

In just six months, the new residence hall will open its doors to a gaggle of juniors and seniors, eager to experience life outside of the dormitory. A similar group will, at that time, be descending upon the "Senior Apartments," if they are still called by that name following the new hall's completion. The Residential Life system is wonderfully crafted so that one gradually accepts responsibility. While in the dorms, students are given freedom to study without the worry that they will have to take on real-life responsibilities such as cooking and cleaning one's lavatory. After a few years in the dorms, one graduates to the point of cooking and cleaning for one self, but can still count on the college to take care of any physical disasters that might arise.

Or can they?

It has recently come to my attention the interestingly small number of work orders that have been fulfilled in the apartment complex during this school year. An Apartment Complex Council member, who wished to remain anonymous, told this columnist that some work orders that had been placed in September had still not been addressed. If these allegations are true, they represent a huge failure on the part of the college to provide for its students.

Members of the Apartment Complex Council have begun taking a preliminary survey of apartments to determine exactly how much work needs to be done. Of the forty-eight apartments, fourteen reported problems, eleven reported none, and twenty-three had yet to respond to the inquiry. While it is clear that more information gathering must be done, the reports taken from those fourteen apartments reveal the true extent of this problem.

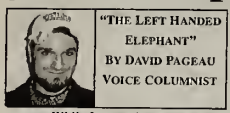
> **"The apartment in question then had one bathroom that did not work and one that was plunged into total darkness once the door was shut."**

Take, for example, one apartment in Welch Hall that reports that their stove barely works and that the rear right burner will turn on anytime the oven is turned on, clearly creating a fire (and burn) hazard. Besides that, they have a toilet handle that falls off, broken furniture, and dim lighting in one room. Other apartments report similar problems, such as the back sink not being attached to the wall, problems with furniture, an oven that does not cook, broken blinds, and a closet pole that has fallen down. According to the statements taken by the Council, these apartments have all placed the necessary work orders required to take care of such problems. To date, the problems still exist. These problems amount to a number of health, safety, and privacy concerns.

One apartment clearly stands out above the rest in terms of demonstrating the need to resolve this issue. According to the report I was given, this apartment placed a work order to fix a broken toilet in October. The faulty toilet remained out of order right up until they six roommates left for the holiday break. At first, this would not seem to be a major problem, as all apartments are equipped with two bathrooms for just such an occurrence. Then, the lights in the back bathroom stopped working. The apartment in question then had one bathroom that did not work, and one that was plunged into total darkness once the door was shut. According to a resident of that apartment, the toilet was fixed two weeks ago, but has since broken again. Should the second toilet break, one would assume those six residents would have to walk across the hall four to five times a day in the hopes their neighbors will let them heed a call of nature.

When students become residents at Westfield State College, one of the things they assume is that the college will take care of matters outside their control. Furthermore, as a renter, for all practical purposes, we would assume that the college acts as a proper landlord. Allowing work orders to backlog and creating situations such as the one listed above create an environment that is not conducive to learning, safety, health, or privacy.

588 days with no contract? How many until you shut up and do your job?



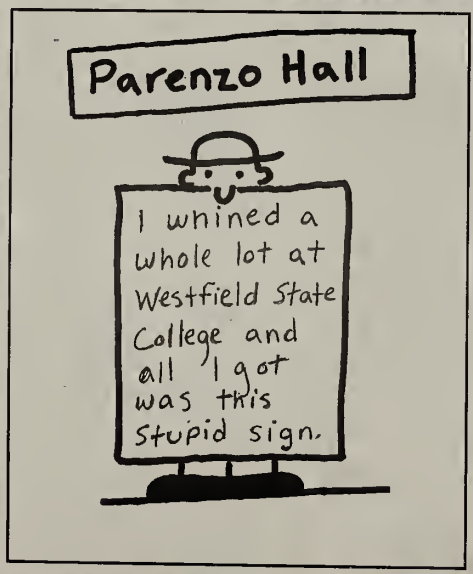
"The Left Handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Columnist

While I wanted to address this issue last week, I made the fortunate choice of postponing this particular op-ed for this week because a member of the Westfield State College faculty *cough* Professor Julian Fleron of the Mathematics Department *cough* tacked up a sign on one of the telephone poles stating that faculty had been without a contract for 588 days, Why?

Now I am not completely out of line stating that Julian Fleron had something, if not everything (but probably everything) to do with this sign. It is the same font and type of sign that he uses when he has his "one man revolutions" outside the front of Parenzo Hall, and he seems to be the primary suspect. However, if I am wrong in any way, then I apologize.

Anyway, this particular sign isn't the focus of this particular column. This only furthered my argument and gave me a chuckle while driving down Western Avenue. The sandwich sign that he wears around his neck when he is supposed to be doing his damn job is what I want to focus on. Anyone who has Professor Fleron knows that if you would like to speak to him about a class that he is teaching or require any type of extra help or explanation, then you can find him standing like a statue in front of Parenzo Hall with his dopey sign. A number of students also realized this semester that if they wish to overload into his classes, which is not a huge deal if it is not a huge number of students, he will deny you and give you a flowery self-glorifying speech about how he is being brought down by "the man" and other pitiful excuses about why he doesn't want to do his job for the students who pay to go here.

Is my logic completely skewed? Or is this the biggest bunch of crap I have ever heard in my life? A state college professor thinks that by disenfranchising students of their right to an education (again, and education that has been paid for), he will somehow force the big wigs in their plush executive chairs to grant them a contract. Sorry Jules, but I don't see where you are going with this. The main point I wish to make is that if the faculty who whines about contracts and other diplomatic red tape would grows some balls and strike, I might have a little more respect for them. But no! They don't have the gaul to go after the individuals who have control over them and their careers. When faced with a problem all that these spineless excuses for professors can do is take a huge dump on their students education by taking the eighth grade way out and pulling the "If I can't have some, then you can't either" approach. How much more childish can you get? I completely agree that the faculty needs to have a contract. Yes. That is correct. However, the guerilla warfare tacties that are being launched by Julian Fléron against the Westfield State College students are not necessary.



Most, if not all of this campus is politically apathetic. It's unfortunate, but true. However, if you do care about your education and the way in which professors treat you and value your education, then you will do something like I did when I saw him standing out with his sign. I told him that if he didn't like his job, then he should get to the back of the unemployment line. A bit arrogant, yes, I will admit that, but it got my point across, and it let him know that I was on to what he is trying to pull on students whether or not they care as much as I do. The fact that Julian Fleron is trying to get students involved with his cause by cutting their educational opportunities is not fair, to put it nicely, and every time I walk by I will be sure to give him the old one finger salute for punishing students because they don't want to take action themselves.

New England is the place to be

"THIS OWL'S HOWL"
BY JOHN DESCHENES
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Before the Patriots won Super Bowl XXXVI over the Rams in New Orleans, Boston and all of New England resembled an adopted phrase, "Loserville". Before the Patriots got things started, no major professional sports team in Boston had won a championship since the 1985-1986 Celtics. That doesn't seem like a long time, but for a city like Boston it is, or should I say was?

The Patriots capped off another great season with a 24-21 win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX. Tom Brady was almost flawless, Deion Branch was a star, and Rodney Harrison led the bend, but don't break defense. Who didn't make at least one contribution to this win? Daniel Graham was a blocking machine, Corey Dillon was running hard, Kevin Faulk was clutch out of the backfield, Teddy Bruschi had an interception, Mike Vrabel scored a touchdown, etc. Every time this team plays they show why they are the best TEAM in football. All you need to know is they won with just one starter from their secondary from opening day on the field in the 2nd half (Rodney Harrison).

I would like to give a little love to the Eagles and their fans. It seemed like Philly fans took over Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, but it didn't matter. I admit that I am a T.O. hater, but I have a lot more respect for him now after that performance. Freddie Mitchell? Not so much. What a clown that guy is. I like Donovan McNabb and Andy Reid, and I also appreciate the hardcore nature of Philly sports fans. If the Patriots don't win it next year, I'm jumping on the Philly bandwagon.

> **"Hey, can you believe I went that entire piece and didn't use the word 'dynasty'?"**

Three championships in four years? 34-4 over the past two seasons? We are truly blessed to be fans of the model franchise for all of professional sports. Bill Belichick was close to taking the New York Jets job a few years back. Just picture the Jets winning three titles in four years; it's not a pretty sight. New Yorker's are bad enough as it is. Luckily Bob Kraft saw something in Belichick and brought him to Foxboro to run the show. Scott Pioli is Belichick's right hand man in making player personnel decisions and has excelled at his job. Belichick put together a top notch coaching staff and hasn't looked back.

Speaking of that coaching staff, a few changes are in order. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis will take over the Notre Dame program next year and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel has accepted the Cleveland Browns' offer to become their new head coach. Seeing Belichick, Weis, and Crennel go out on top together was special. Their embracing of each other was genuine and a true sign of friendship. "In Bill we trust", I'm confident he'll find the right replacements. Good luck to Weis and Crennel, I might be forced to root for Notre Dame now, but I'll try not to make a habit of it.

The roster will also have some changes. One guy to keep an eye on is Ty Law. He is a great player when he is healthy, but the Patriots pretty much proved they can win without him. Belichick would love to have this guy back, but I don't think it's going to happen based on the price tag Law carries. If he doesn't accept a pay cut I think he will be let go.....

The Red Sox won the World Series, the Celtics are at .500 and in 1st place in their division, and the Bruins are undefeated! Does it get any better than this? We could mention college sports as well. Connecticut is defending two national championships in basketball, and there is always a New England school playing for the national championship in hockey. Add Vermont and Boston College to the college basketball scene and this region has it all. That's not a mistake either, I really mean Vermont. They have a great chance of winning a game in the NCAA tournament this year (if they win their conference tourney first of course).

It's great to be a New England sports fan right now. No more "Loserville". As Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis likes to say, "Just win baby."

(Hey, can you believe I went that entire piece and didn't use the word dynasty? :)

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New Shows Announced!

Monday, February 28th (Underground)
Pat McGee & Friends
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Sunday, March 6th (Underground)
Socratic
6 pm doors, $10 adv

Tuesday, April 5th (Underground)
The Queers
River City Rebels
6 pm doors, $12 adv

Sunday, April 24th
Overkill
3 pm doors, $15 adv

Tuesday, April 26th
Scatter the Ashes
Read Yellow
6 pm doors, $10 adv

Onsale This Week!

Official onsale this Saturday:
Camron, The Queers, Overkill

Arts & Entertainment

3 Days Grace 'home' with *The Voice*

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

So, for those of you who have kept up with my writing for this magnanimous paper, I am pleased to inform you that your diligent work has paid off. I think you will be pleased to read through this interview that Skot (of WSKB) and I conducted with Barry and Neil, of Three Days Grace. This was the first show I had ever gone to, so I was nervous two times over. On the way up I smoked a little something-something to calm my nerves. First off, marijuana does not help to calm anyone's nerves. Secondly, the first question I heard from the band members when I entered their tour bus was "who's got the weed?" Oh, boy was I kicking myself in the ass after the interview was over. At any rate, here is the interview for your viewing pleasure.

Pete: So Neil, You stated that the song "Over Rated" is about a generation that is tired of conforming to an outdated set of values, rules, and morals. When do you suppose it was that the last generation's sets of values, rules, and morals became outdated?

Neil: Its not something that happened at a certain point in time, but, definitely when you get governments like the government that is in right now, is stuck in traditional ways in a lot of respects. That way of thinking, very religious way of supporting, you know, all kinds of shit. So that whole thing seems to be outdated. Really, whether you're religious or not, to base government decisions on religion or anything like that is not very 2005. America is closer to that now than if maybe, you had a democratic government. Bush is all about Jesus. Bush is a big Jesus fan. Which is fine for whatever, its just, not everyone shares that kind of shit.

Pete: I was listening to the song "I Hate Everything About You." I was listening to it with my boss on the radio. I told him I was going to be interviewing you guys, and when it came on I tried to explain what it meant to me to him because he had said that it contradicted itself. So, I came to a loss for words, you know what I mean, because I didn't write the song, so I don't know.

Barry: How did he figure it contradicted itself?

Pete: Because it goes, "I hate everything about you, why do I love you?" He was wondering how you could hate somebody and love somebody at the same time.

Neil: If someone was a hardcore alcoholic, they probably don't just sit there and think, "oh I love this beer, this is the greatest beer I've ever had," all the time. Or people that smoke cigarettes, right? Do you smoke?

Pete: Oh yeah.

Neil: People that smoke, like first thing in the morning, you're probably like, "fuck I love this smoke." But after thirty of them, you're probably like "why the fuck do I do this?"

Barry: That's the problem; everybody refers to that song as like, who's pissed off at what girl. It can be about anything you've had in your life that you just want to get rid of. Like a job that you've just stuck around with forever and just you really don't need to be there. It doesn't have to be about a relationship.

Pete: (talking to Barry) You said that you couldn't stand when people judge others based on superficial bullshit. When was the first time that you realized people were prone to judge you based on this superficial bullshit?

-Photo by Ken Schultz

From left to right, Peter, Neil, Skot, and Barry. That stupifiedlook on Pete's face is the after effect of interviewing a famous band. Notice Neil leaning away... Pete swears that he used deodorant!

Barry: I think you see that every day. Every day, and I mean that goes both ways, whether you're see a guy like me with a big mohawk and you judge that or you can almost say the same in return to people like us when we see guys in suits. I have great friends in both aspects of life. To judge one better over the other, I don't do it, that's just crap.

Pete: So, do you remember the first time that you realized that people did that to you, specifically?

Barry: I don't really get that a lot but you see it. When you see people getting picked out in the security line and this and that. People will judge people based on their looks. Its like when this went down with Homeland Security, you know and when this thing when they started popping Muslims.

Pete: Recently in my intro to MassCom class, I started learning about conglomeration and concentration of the media and how, record labels are owned by a company that perhaps is owned by a company that also puts out magazines. Its like a whole support network that will support itself. So what I was wondering was, did you guys as a band ever find that you had to fit into a certain frame to become involved in the media?

Neil: No, no, never. We've never tried to conform to anything at all. The media is interested in what people are interested in. So the best thing for us to do is to be an interesting band and be diverse and have substance in our music, artwork, and our videos. And of course the live show is the most important thing. I think that if you get a buzz going on that level people go to a show and you impress them, people will speak for basically everyone else and the media picks up on that. I think you'd make a big mistake to try to conform just to get played on the radio. We don't write songs thinking is this going to get played on the radio? If you start over-thinking like that then what happens is you start coming up with contrite bullshit.

Pete: Also in the same class, my professor mentioned that all music nowadays sounds the same. While I don't necessarily agree with that, I can possibly see what he means by that. The media plays a certain kind of music, you know…

Neil: Just tell him to change stations or turn the radio off. Because to say that all music sounds the same, if you want to talk about real music, and that's not just the stuff that's getting force-fed on MTV, maybe your professor needs to dig a little deeper beneath the surface to find that there's more music than what's spoon fed to you. Everything sounds different than Elvis, which, I'm a big Elvis fan too. Technology plays a big part in that too, because everybody has the access to make everything sound larger than life just with modern technology so… As a listener, its kind of your job to listen past that, now too cause shitty bands can make great sounding records but still have shitty songs, but they sound great.

Skot: I had one quick question. I listen to you guys, mostly on the radio, because, you know, poor college student syndrome. But I work at a place for four to five hours alone and I listen to one of the area rock stations and I hear Home a lot lately. I notice between that, Just Like You, and again, I Hate You, I noticed that a lot of the songs seem focused on parents.

Neil: Yeah, see that's one misconception people have because everybody thinks that if you're speaking to someone that may be holding something over you, then people automatically think that its your parents. Just Like You isn't about that. Just Like You is being told how to live your life and how to conform until one day that you just decide fuck you, I'm not going to conform. I'm going to do things my own way. That's not just parenting, that's school. School is all about conformity. We write on a very personal level, but we write more about redeeming yourself and a lot of people relate that back to domestic relationships, which it is about, but it's not all about that. We write from a really emotional angle, we write about personal things and things we see in life. We grew up in a small town so we saw things up closer than you would in a big city. In a big city you just read about things a lot and you kind of go on with your life but in a small town you have to deal with things up front so, I think we had a unique experience in seeing things in a different light and I think that we kind of slept on that quite a bit in our lyrics.

Skot: Is it odd to being on your first album and doing on a headlining tour?

Neil: Its cool, actually, we've done a lot of opening. We've done a lot so to go out there and have our own stage and have our own show, we've got all kinds of time, we can experiment musically if we want, we can do whatever the hell we want.

Pete: Do you guys get your pierecings any place in particular, because I know I have this one piercer that I go to?

Neil: Yeah, actually, there's this guy in Toronto that does them. It's a girl actually; she wears gloves, that's all I care about. I reppierced my own eyebrow, I'll never do that again, it wasn't a good time. My ass is pierced, where did I get that done? Right here in Hartford, as a matter of fact, I got my ass pierced in Hanford! You can put that on the radio.

Skot: It'd be better if you got your ass pierced at Westfield State College.

Neil: I got my ass pierced at West- what is it?

Barry: Man, that does not sound good.

Pete: For shits and giggles, do you have any words of wisdom or advice for my buddies at WSC?

Neil: Don't walk around here in this neighborhood at night. Yeah, don't hang around the Webster, stay on the bus. I don't know, I mean, word of advice, rock out with your cock out. If you're coming down to see Canadian bands, bring weed.

So for a first interview, I don't think it could have gone better. The guys from 3DG were really nice; they answered my questions without harassing me or anything. Even the tour manager, Ken Schultz, was kind enough to direct me to the tour bus without me even knowing his name. Breathe a sigh of relief for me on that one. Hopefully you enjoyed the interview almost as much as I did, and you can look forward to more coming in the near future. Thanks to everyone who made this happen: Emily Engel, Ben Wit, Ken Schultz, and Skot. Barry and Neil, you deserve special thanks for not scaring me away from band interviews forever more. As a friend of mine recently told me; jam out with your clam out, people!

'Thirsty Thursday' at the Webster

By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

After nineteen years on this planet, I have finally been de-virginated. I'm not talking about sex, so get your minds out of the gutters. Here i sit, a day after going to the Webster Theater to see Three Days Grace. It was my first concert ever and I will tell you what, live music is more addicting than those cigarettes you all see me smoking whenever I am outside. Skot and I headed to Hartford, Connectieut for what was to become one of the most memorable nights of my life. Three bands were scheduled to play before Three Days Grace; C4, Drawn Inward, and Novus Dae.

I have to admit, a few of you know that I am skeptical when it comes to "local music," but these guys definitely rocked the Webster Theatre. The band that sticks out most in my mind was Drawn Inward (who will be playing at the Girls Gone Wild Rocks America Tour on February 27, at the Webster along with Copper and Revelation Theory). These guys were really energetic on the stage. To avoid the cliché of comparing bands, it can be said that their music was a roller coaster of sorts. Certain parts of their songs were mellow, before they would bust out with some killer sounds that got the audience jumping up and down. The mixture of sound was definitely enough to keep me bouncing.

An interesting aspect of a concert is the other people who are in attendance. Now, being a first-timer, I had no idea what to expect. Would there be a bunch of pissed off kids, looking to rough people up? How would they react to the music? Would I get my piercings ripped out in some crazy mosh-pit? Well, all the answers came to me and I was honestly surprised. First, the kids going in to see this particular show were pretty mellow. While there was some moshing, I saw the security guards constantly keeping an eagle eye out to make sure things didn't get out of hand. Actually, now that I think of it, I remember at one point smelling sweet Mary Jane. This, of course, was not appreciated by the security at all. In terms of reaction to the music, most people seemed to be having a good time, with the exception of a few who threw broken free CDs at one band.

In between sets, music can be heard playing over the radio as bands set up their stage and do their sound checks. Before three Days Grace came on, people starting filling the Webster up. If we hadn't obtained photo passes then we would have gotten stuck in the back, and we would not have these awesome photos for your viewing pleasure. The place was full.

The feeling as the lights turned off was incredible. If any of you are familiar with WCCC, Hartford independent radio, you'd know that they had a contest going on to allow some lucky listener the opportunity to announce for Three Days Grace. As soon as the winner screamed Three Days Grace into the microphone, a deafening roar filled the entire room.

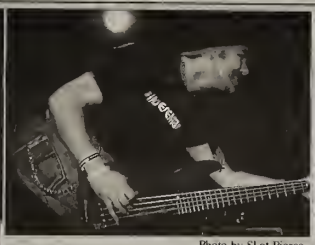
Then, out they came. First Adam, the charismatic lead vocalist for the band, walked out. After about four hours without a cigarette, his entrance killed me. He walked on stage, cigarette in hand, he took a drag, threw it down, and stomped it out (what a shame... didn't even finish it). The rest of the guys (we interviewed Barry and Neil, be sure to read that, too) came out to a flurry of screams and cries. The audience was going nuts, and who could blame them!?! They played an absolutely amazing set.

I found that it is nearly impossible not to get moving with the rhythm when music is being played for you. I am not referring solely to Three Days Grace here, either (although understandably, the effect was amplified considerably when they played).

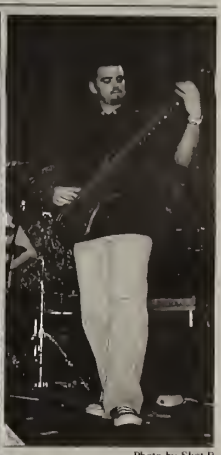
It is one thing to sing along no one is around, of course) wit music on the radio. It feels like yo entered some sort of surreal worl you see them up on stage, jumming hits that you have come to know an The feeling you get when you are s ing your guts out with a bunch o raging fans is simply unmatchable. an honor for me that the first show to was a band that I love and on top was able to speak with Neil and Bar sonally.

So, if one thing can be sai out trying to offend the Comt Activities Board, it is that the Wchst on a hell of a lot better a show than Main Lounge. For all those of you v skeptical about live music (I've bee and done that) I suggest that you g your skepticism and at least try st show. Don't just go anywhere; go Webster. They put on the best around (see for yourself, go look Valley Advocate). The Webster Hartford, Connecticut. For more in tion and show listings check out the site at www.webstertheater.com. Le be the ones to de-virginate you too!

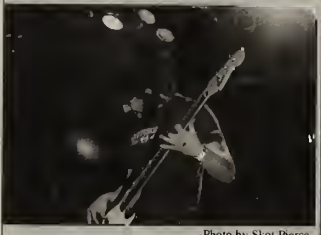
-Photo by Pete Norwood
The lead singer of C4 belts out during the first set.



-Photo by Skot Pierce
C4's bassist takes it to the crowd.

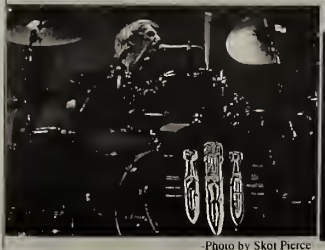


-Photo by Skot P
Bassist of Novus Dae during the third

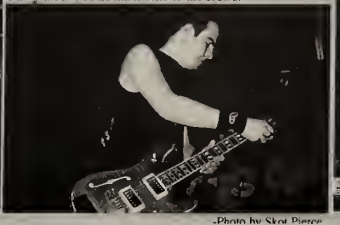


-Photo by Skot Pierce
Drawn Inward was atrue crowd pleaser.

-Photo by Skot Pierce
Barry throws some killer riffs to the crowd.



-Photo by Skot Pierce



-Photo by Skot Pierce

-Photo by Skot P

Worth every penny to enjoy every minute

EMILY RANSOM
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

"Chick Flicks" are not few or far between but it has been far too long since a "chick flick" made the audience laugh, tear up, and swoon for the same things.

The Wedding Date is a poignantly amusing film starring Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney, and opened in theatres on February 4th.

Messing's character, Kat, is a single girl who hires Mulroney's character, Nick, to be her date for her sister's wedding, for the low price of only $6000. Kat hopes to convince her family that Nick is her boyfriend and to make her ex-fiancée jealous in the meantime.

Natural twists and turns in the plot help for believability. While the movie is a brief 90 minutes, the story was full, rich, and satisfying. *The Wedding Date* is an excellent choice for a night out with the girls. Leaving the guys at home might be a good idea, but those males willing to try this "chick flick" might be surprised. The humor here does not depend on gender.

The comedy seemed European-inspired because it was not as slapstick as many American films. It does not ruin the story to say that nobody falls carrying the wedding cake nor does the outdoor tent come crashing down on guests. Anyone who has suffered through, or even seen *The In-Laws* will appreciate the comedy in this movie.

The story is easy to relate to. Most of the audience had probably been to a wedding or has even been in one; this story is more for them rather than for the brides and grooms in the audience. *The Wedding Date* is a sweet story that is not focused on the bridezilla or the evil in-laws. Because it centers around a member of the wedding party and a guest, the story is easier to recall similar feelings.

-File Photo

Actress Debra Messing and actor Dermot Mulroney star in the latest romantic comedy 'The Wedding Date' released on February 4.

Messing is best known for her quirky and sometimes ditzy character Grace Adler in NBC's *Will & Grace*, but she carries herself in films well. Her nervous or intense emotions are reminiscent of her well-known Grace character but she refines herself for mature and emotional moments. Messing also appears in *Along Came Polly, A Walk in the Clouds* and *Mothman Prophecies*.

Casting for Nick, Mulroney character was perfect. He is a notable actor known for several roles in films like *My Best Friend's Wedding, About Schmidt*, and *How to Make an American Quilt*. He exudes a charismatic persona and he captures the heart of the audience in his first few seconds on screen. His mannerisms and masculine grace make him a memorable character and he appears real. He seems so comfortable and calm, which is somewhat of a relief opposite Messing's character.

The story is based on Elizabeth Young's novel *Asking for Trouble*. Dana Fox was the screenwriter with Clare Kilner directing. Many members of the filmmaker category, including director, producers, and executive producers are mostly British. Before American audiences fear stuffy jokes or a bland humor, give *The Wedding Date* the chance it deserves.

Random audience members left the theater wondering when it would come onto video and even broke college students commented they would be willing to pay the astronomical $9.75 it costs at night.

A reviewer for the Boston Globe, Wesley Morris, considers Messing to be a mess and found the story to be similar to a "soap opera." Audiences have finally been offered a film that is not "dumb" funny and some reviewers do not see if for what it is worth.

This movie may not win a record number of Oscars and it might not be in the running for best picture, but it does leave a different feeling opposed to that after watching the news and hearing horror stories. *The Wedding Date* is no *Spanglish* but there are few "feel-good" movies left that do not resort to trite humor. Audiences can expect to enjoy *The Wedding Date*.

Lets talk about sex, baby!

SARAH CAGAN
A&E EDITOR

It's Valentine's Day, so what do you do now? My suggestion is to pick up The Guide to getting it on by Paul Joanniden. Whether you have a significant other is of no importance. This book is informative while at the same time amusing and fun. There are chapters on self serving gratification, as well as breaking down the common genitals. Any question you could possibly think of is approached in this text.

"Balls, Balls, Balls" was one of my favorite chapters but I urge you to discover your own. This book does not just explore one narrow aspect of sex. The beauty of this text is its prismatic view into all erotic notions as well as related medical advice. There are even historical references and political views of sex in different societies.

Ok guys lets be honest, as much as we would like to say we are experts in the intercourse arena, there is always more to learn. Let me give you an image; visualize Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Now picture the panoramic view of the plethora of candy goodness. Still with me? Ok, now imagine a book with the same variety of sensual exploits, so tasty.

"Balls, Balls, Balls" was one of my favorite chapters but I urge you to discover your own."

This book also holds questions and statements from real people. If you ever had that feeling that something was really wrong with you, reading this book will make your doubts dissipate instantly. There are so many strange situations and quandaries these people have, in comparison you will feel ahead of the game. The best thing about gaining information from a book is that no one has to know; although I have to say it is more fun to share (and utilize) with others.

This book actually surprised me with its realistic outlook and legitimate basis. Although it is definitely an amusing read, the research that went into it was extensive. This book is so much more then a typical sex book. It is a real guide into the mental, as well as physical, sexual realm.

One of my personal favorite sections in the book was the glossary. Have you ever heard a dirty joke and laughed with everyone even though you didn't get it? Well, throw that façade out the window, because every dirty reference is clearly defined in this glossary. Just think you will be able to impress all your family friends with terms such as "breeders" and "pop a cod."

So this Valentine's Day, instead of buying flowers or chocolates, you should buy the Guide to getting it on and enjoy it any way possible. I guarantee this will lift your spirits as well as your libido.

Westfield State senior Peter King of Athol set a school record in the shot put with a heave of 51-9 3/4 at the Smith Invitational on Feb. 5. The former school record was set in 1978. King also broke a longstanding school record in the discus last spring with a toss of 150 feet even.
File Photo By Mickey Curtis

Indoor Track & Field Results

Smith College Tartan Classic

MEN'S TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Williams 233; 2. Bryant 144; 3. Westfield 111; 4. WPI 96; 5. Wesleyan 74; 6. Conn. College 55; 7. Vassar 5.

FIRST: Eric Kelly, 55 hurdles, 8.23; 4 x 400 Relay, 3:34.76; David Richardson, high jump, 6-4; Peter King, shot put, 51-9.75.

THIRD: Zak Bitzer, 400, 53.36; 4 x 800 Relay, 8:36.01; Shawn McCorquodale, long jump, 20-11.75

FOURTH: Robbie Crossman, 400, 53.48; Nate Cristofori, 600, 1:28.98; 4x200 relay, 1:36.33; Sean Marino, high jump, 6-0.

FIFTH: Eric Kelly, 200, 23.79; Andy Messer, 1000, 2:43.39; Matt Dissell, shot put, 42-9

SIXTH: Ben Butterfield, 200, 23.91; Jacques Moret, 400, 53.71.

SEVENTH: John Messer, 1000, 2:46.27; Matt Shannon, high jump, 5-10; Matt Shannon, long jump, 20.5.25; Chris Flynn, triple jump, 38-9.50.

EIGHTH: David Richardson, 200, 24.33; Ron Ricciarelli, 55 hurdles, 9.29.

WOMEN'S STANDINGS:
1. Williams 242.5; 2. Smith 122; 3. 3. Mt. Holyoke 67; 4. Wesleyan 63; 5. Bryant 52; 6. Connecticut College 49; 7. Westfield State 38.5; 8. WPI 33; 9. Wellesley 30; 10. Vassar 5.

FIRST: Tessa Donoghue, 400, 59.76; Tessa Donoghue, long jump, 18-3.25; Tessa Donoghue, triple jump, 38-5.5.

FIFTH: Abby D'Angelo, high jump, 4-6

SIXTH: Jess Ekness, 55 hurdles, 9.84.

EIGHTH: Katelyn Kervin, 55 meter dash, 8.13; CC Costello, weight throw, 30-5.25.

Swimming Team Finishes 8-2 For 12th Straight Winning Season

The Westfield State women's swimming and diving team concluded its regular season with a 137-103 victory over Regis College on Feb. 8.

The Dwls finished with an 8-2 dual meet record for their 12th straight winning season. The team's next competition is Feb. 18-20 at the New England Championships at Bentley College.

Junior standout Vanessa Morton was a triple winner for the second straight meet, placing first in the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle and the 100 individual medley. Junior Lindsey Bartosz won the 50 and 100 backstrokes and was a member of the winning 200 medley relay, while sophomore Marianne Wilson won both diving events.

Also finishing first were: Chrissy Lalli, 1000 freestyle; Renee Kruszyna, 200 freestyle; Heather Nelson, 100 butterfly; and Katie Piquette, 100 breaststroke.

Senior Nicole Spataro finished second in three events (100 butterfly, 100 backstroke, 100 IM) and was a member of the winning 400 free relay squad.

FIRST PLACE:
200 medley relay, 2:09.75, (Lindsey Bartosz, Katie Piquette, Renee Kruszyna, Melissa Blain); Chrissy Lalli, 1000 freestyle (12:34.08); Renee Kruszyna, 200 free (2:10.71); Lindsey Bartosz, 50 backstroke (31.09); Heather Nelson, 100 butterfly (1:08.52); Vanessa Morton, 50 freestyle, (26.02); Marianne Wilson, one-meter diving, (159.30); Vanessa Morton, 100 freestyle (56.92); Lindsey Bartosz, 100 backstroke (1:07.58); Katie Piquette, 100 breaststroke (1:16.92); Marianne Wilson, diving (176.20); Vanessa Morton, 100 individual medley (1:06.78); 400 free relay (Kelly Springham, Elizabeth Predella, Nicole Spataro, Heather Nelson), 4:42.06.

SECOND PLACE:
Rachel Webb, 1000 freestyle (1:25.94); Kara Phelan, 200 freestyle (2:15.80); Nicole Spataro, 100 butterfly (1:08.98); Nikki Crowe, one-meter diving (152.55); Nicole Spataro, 100 backstroke (1:08.96); Elizabeth Predella, 50 butterfly (30.75); Nikki Crowe (diving), 151.05); Nicole Spataro, 100 individual medley (1:13.87); 400 freestyle relay, 4:46.75, (Bridget Hartley, Megan D'Grady, Allison St. Clair, Laura Bourassa).

THIRD PLACE:
200 medley relay, 2:11.32, (Kara Phelan, Bridget Hartley, Shannon McMahon, Jaclyn Casali); Kaitlyn Campbell, 50 backstroke (34.15); Shannon McMahon, 50 breaststroke (38.76); Allison St. Clair, 50 freestyle (28.58); Jaclyn Casali, 100 freestyle (1:01.84); Jaclyn Casali, 100 individual medley (1:49.8).

Seniors on the Westfield State swimming and diving team, left to right: Heather Nelson, Clare Coumoyer, Nicole Spataro, and Elizabeth Predella. Missing is Kelly Springham.

Salem State Outshoots Westfield Women, 65-51

WESTFIELD - Junior center Estrella Kuilan (Lowell) led a balanced attack with 16 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks to lead Salem State to a 65-51 Mass. State Conference victory over Westfield State on Feb. 8.

The Vikings improved to 15-6 overall and 6-2 in the conference. Westfield is 8-11 and 3-6.

The teams were tied at halftime, 31-31, but Salem began to pull away immediately in the second half with an 11-2 run.

Freshman forward Lindsey Watkins (Wareham) scored 15 points for the Vikings and senior guards Gilliam Almeida (Mattapoisett) and Kelly Reardon (Kettering, Ohio) tallied 10 points apiece.

Junior forward Amanda Chapin (Westfield) had another double-double for the Dwls with 11 points and 18 rebounds. Junior guard Meghan McCarthy (Belchertown) finished with 13 points and seven assists and freshman guard Melissa Macchi (Peabody) had 11 points and six assists.

Salem shot 39 percent from the field, while Westfield only shot 27 percent. The Dwls were 5-for-14 from the foul line.

Salem Stuffs Owls

WESTFIELD—Senior 6-9 center Ifesinachi Anosike (Staten Island, N.Y.) posted a rare triple-double with 23 points, 14 rebounds and 11 blocked shots to power Salem State to an 84-68 Mass. State Conference victory over Westfield State on Feb. 8.

The Vikings improved to 18-3 overall and 7-1 in the conference. Westfield is 9-10 and 5-4.

Westfield rallied from a 22-12 deficit to take a 34-32 halftime lead. Westfield junior reserve forward James Obunize (Springfield) sparked the comeback with 11 points and seven rebounds in the first half. However, Ogbunize only had one point and one rebound in the second half.

But the Vikings quickly sized control early in the second half, sparked by their tall front line of Anosike, 6-8 sophmore center Tyler Lang (Franklin) and senior guard Allen Reid (Southbridge).

When Anosike wasn't swatting shots he was altering them, as Westfield shot just 35 percent from the field (27-for-77). On the offensive end, Anosike was 5-for-11 from the field but he canned 13 of 15 free throws to lead all players in scoring.

Reid scored 20 points, including 15 in the second half, while Lang contributed nine points, 10 rebounds and two blocks.

Sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin (Brighton) led the Owls with 17 points. Junior foreward Mike Jurkowski (Belchertown) posted another double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds; he also had four steals and four assists.

Worcester 70 – Westfield 61

WORCESTER – Junior guard Tyson Drayton scored 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead Worcester State to a 70-61 victory over Westfield State.

Worcester led 33-28 at halftime and held single-digit leads for the entire second half. The closest the Owls drew was within a point, 60-59, when senior forward Vaso Jaukovic nailed a 3-point basket from the top of the key with 2:54 remaining.

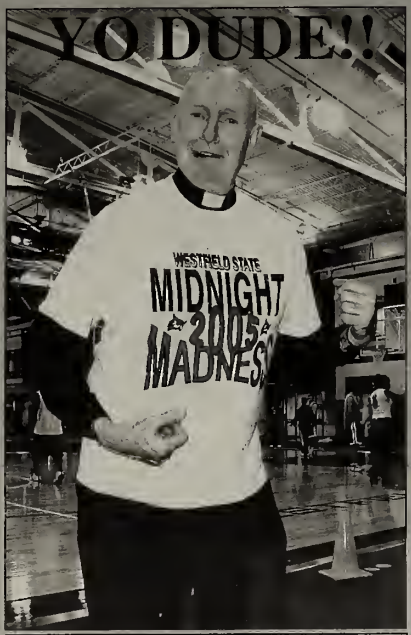
But the Dwls were unable to come up with the big stop and make their shots as they were outscored 10-2 in the final two and a half minutes.

Worcester State quickly regained its four-point edge, 63-59, when senior forward Jermaine Cannon (Dorchester) converted an old fashioned 3-point play with 2:28 remaining.

Junior forward Ralph Frazier (Carver) was Worcester's only other player in twin digits with 13 points. Senior forward Tom Sullivan scored eight point and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

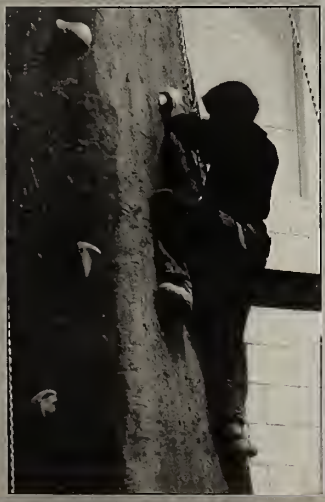
Freshman guard Tony Collier (Colchester, VT) led Westfield with 18 points. Junior forward Mike Jurkowski (Belchertown) posted a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds, but he struggled around the key against the tall Worcester frontcourt, canning only 4 of 16 field goal attempts. Junior reserve forward James Ogbunize tallied 10 points.

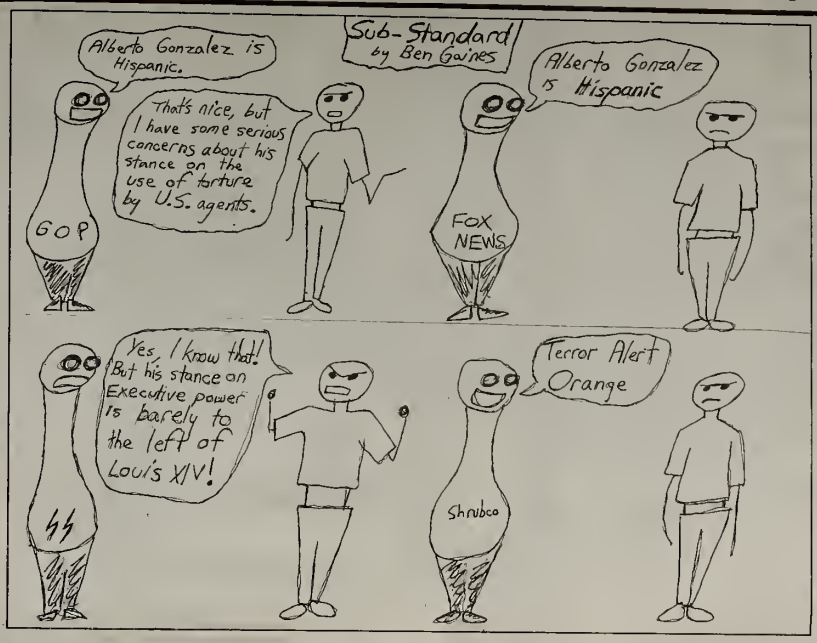
Midnight Madness

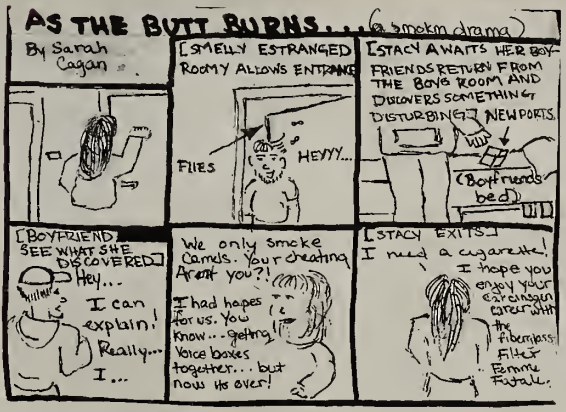


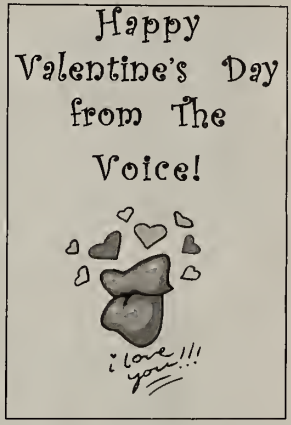
This years Midnight Madness was held Wednesday, February 2 in the brand new Woodward Center. The event, which ran from 9:00p.m. to 1:00a.m., featured a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament, three-legged races, a football passing competition as well as hot shot competitions.

All photos by Jay Jeffrey









Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy

"A funny thing to do is, if you're out hiking and your friend gets bitten by a poisonous snake, tell him you're going to go for help, then go about ten feet and pretend that *you* got bit by a snake. Then start an argument with him about who's going to go get help. A lot of guys will start crying. That's why it makes you feel good when you tell them it was a joke."

"A good way to threaten people is to light a stick of dynamite. Then you call they guy and hold the burning fuse up to the phone. 'Hear that?' you say. 'That's dynamite, baby!'"

"Better not take a dog on the space shuttle, because if he sticks his head out when you're coming home his face might burn up."

For more Deep Thoughts visit: http://www.ambitweb.com/interest/jhandy.html

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

Campus Flicks
Feb. 14 - Anchorman & Little Black Book
Feb. 15 - Open Water & Door in the Floor
Feb. 16 - The Cookout & Wimbledon
Feb. 17 - The Fighting Temptations & Troy

Happy Valentine's Day!

February is Black History Month!

Be sure to pick up a speaker and event schedule in the Ely Main Lounge!

Mon 2/14	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm		
Tue 2/15	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	Women's Basketball Game against Albertus Magnus - 7:00pm - WOOD
Wed 2/16	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Jazz Singer Montenia - 7pm - EML	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm
Thurs 2/17	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm Gospel Night Choirs - 7pm - SBH	Women's Basketball Game at Framingham State College - 5:30pm	Men's Basketball Game at Framingham State College - 6pm
Fri 2/18	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 2/20	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight Women's & Men's Basketball Games against MCLA - 1:00pm & 3:00pm - WOOD	**Sun 2/21**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X February 14, 2005 Issue XV

Westfield State's First Annual Sex Survey!

pg. 2

Attempted Robbery Stirs Campus

pg. 1

Photo by Mi

Missed Midnight Madness?

Check out the photos!

pg. 14

Patriots Make History

pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | February 21, 2005 | Issue XVII

Dining Commons back online

By Mike Forest
Voice Reporter

Students were unable to use their ID cards at the dining commons and all other on-campus restaurants for two weeks starting Thursday January 27 because of an operating system error, but the Westfield State information technology department and employees of CBORD, the company that supplies and supports the campus-wide ID system, worked together to fix the problem by last Thursday, February 10.

Craig Goodridge, general manager at the dining commons, said of CBORD and the IT department, "They worked very cooperatively together to fix it." Goodridge said the problem lasted so long because "It took a while to find it," referring to the source of the problem.

Because of an operating system error, the scanners were unable to recognize how much money students had on their cards. Balances are not stored in the cards themselves, but in the computer system and are accessed by the cards.

Goodridge said this is the first time the computer system has been down for so long, though it has stopped working briefly in the past, "It's happened for short times before... a half-day at most."

He also acknowledged that there are occasional errors in uploading data for individual students that cause their balances not to be read.

Some students were adversely affected by the system failure when they were forced to wait in long lines at Quixote's and The Grill because cards could not be read. The operation of the establishments remained slow but smooth, as "students were understanding," according to Sally Bannish, office manager at the dining commons.

Also, parents who attempted to add flex dollars to students' accounts were

Dining Commons- Page 2

Photo by: Cliff Ashbrook

After a week of being waved into the D.C. because of a computer error students now know how many meals and flex dollars they have left.

This girl can sing

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Aspiring Singer Kerrin Clark performs "A Moment Like This" at last semester's Say What Karaoke?

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

It's a Wednesday night and Westfield State College's Dever Auditorium is packed with students eager to see their classmates perform in the college's Say What Karaoke Contest.

Although it's a singing contest, Say What Karaoke is just as much about antics as it is about talent. The night's winners include a crowd-pleasing 80's rocker, Jimmy, complete with work-boots and a mullet wig who sang "Here I Go Again" by Whitesnake, and Monty, in a giant tower-of-a-monster-costume complete with big cartoonish eyes, and long arms that stretch out and hang down, bent at right angles. He sings "I Touch Myself" and sounds like Conan O'Brien's Arnold Schwarzenegger impression while friends of his work little monster puppets from behind the curtain. Coincidentally, tickets to Late Night with Conan O'Brien are the contest's first prize.

And then there's Kerrin Clark.

Her reddish-brown hair is pulled back to reveal her dangling rhinestone earrings that frame the sides of her face with their reflected sparkling light. Dressed in a long black halter dress with a ruffle and pink trim angling across the front, she sings "A Moment Like This," by American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson. Clark has even auditioned for American Idol, although

Clark- Page 3

Smelly spray prevents slippery sidewalks

By Emily Engel
Managing Editor

The pungent aroma that mysteriously hits the air the day before an impending snow storm has been referred to by many unique names by Westfield State students. Some call it "Pavement Teriyaki," others call it "Molasses-esque" and many think it just plain smells bad. So what exactly do the maintenance workers put down?

Surprisingly, the substance that is used to prevent ice is also used to prevent sobriety. It is made from a by-product of beer.

This spray is completely organic and cuts down the usage of salt and sand on campus.

"I find it to be a great aroma. Everytime they work with this stuff, my mouth starts to water." Dave G., a mechanic for the maintenance department talked about this special spray. Dave compared the smell to a well known beer that is produced by The Berkshire Brewing Company. He mentioned that if anyone happens to go into

Sidewalk-Page 3

International Relations club gets it done

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

It's 7:30 a.m. and Professor Brian Steinberg is already in his signature three-piece suit, ready for questions in his hotel room on the first of three trips this semester. This trip finds him in Montreal; the last was New York and the one before that was Boston. He shouldn't expect any phone calls until at least 8:30 a.m., but he is ready anyway, just in case. Brian seems to be always ready, always prepared. Whether it is giving a lecture about a small African nation for over two hours without notes, or answering a question about who was in that movie about that thing, that one time, it's hard to catch Steinberg unaware. This is a skill he has tried to instill in his students.

"Brian does a great deal to prepare us for the models. He helps us understand who our allies are and who are not," said Stephen Cole, a third-year member and co-head delegate of the Westfield State College International Relations Club. The Club,

IR Club- page 2

Professor Julian Fleron responds to '588 days with no contract? How many until you shut up and do your job?'

Letters to the Editor
pg. 7

Thoughtful discussion on sex suggested in reponse to last week's survey

Letters to the Editor
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Dining Commons

told they would have to call back when the system was running again. However, Bannish said, "parents were very understanding," and the computer problem presented no major issues in that respect.

IR club

which started over 25 years ago, allows Westfield State College students to attend Model United Nations and portray a country representing the foreign policies in a variety of topics from access to clean water to deterrents to child prostitution.

"I have never gone into a committee and felt unprepared," said Cole.

It's now 12:30 and his students start to trickle in as their committees break for lunch. Brian sits in his chair and listens as each student briefs him on the affairs of their respected committee. "We decided on topic one, which I'm ready for so this should be a good one," said one student. The next in line is not as enthused as the first. "The committee started kind of slow and I can tell it's going to be hard to be heard." Brian just sits in his chair in the corner of the room and listens. To his left is a portable photocopier and next to that is a laptop and printer. Covering his mirror in the short hallway is a large laminated picture of Africa.

This time around, Westfield is playing Namibia, a small South African nation. A picture of the Namibian president, Pohamba, is covering the signature hotel picture of a couch. Brian has turned his pale pink bedroom into a working office, classroom and African shrine. Every wall in the room seems to keep the students focused on the task at hand, representing Namibia as accurately as possible in the Model United Nations.

The club is allotted around $10,000 by the school for expenses including model sign-up fees and hotel room costs.

Kristina Martinelli, co-head delegate of the club with Cole, said it was the best class she has taken due to its real world atmosphere. "It takes you out of the classroom and puts you in a simulated situation that could actually happen," said Martinelli. The students range from a freshman Criminal Justice major to a senior History/Political Science major. The prerequisites for the club are a teacher's recommendation, and nerves of steel.

"You think that you have no problem speaking in front of large groups until you get up there and see two hundred faces looking at you and listening to only you," said Amaran Soja, a second-year delegate.

Cole is on his seventh model and knows the ins and the outs of the models better than anyone else on the team, but after a long day of committee sessions, even the veteran Cole is visibly exhausted. "It's a mixture of exhaustion and exhilaration because I know that I did the best to represent the foreign policy of the country to which I was assigned," said Cole.

At each model every school is given a country to represent. The schools include Harvard, University of North Carolina, Seton Hall, US Naval Academy and at least a hundred more. "We focus on sub-Saharan Africa and all countries in that region," said Steinberg. "Other colleges are go into the models looking for awards and some of the students get graded on if whether they get an award or not. We don't do that. We just try to represent our country as accurately as possible."

Steinberg is still in his hotel room waiting by the phone just in case. He may read the recent news of Africa on his laptop or skim through the Italian newspaper he picked up on the corner but he is in a perpetual state of alertness. The delegates know this and so reciprocate his quiet efforts and diligence.

"Everybody goes in with the mindset of representing the school and the country the best they can and wanting to do well for Brian," said Soja.

> **"I remember our first model when one of our delegates had to sleep on the couch in the room."**
>
> **Amaran Soja**

The team seems close, cracking jokes, teasing and asking "Does this look okay?" Their precision in the bathroom is like a ballet of toothbrushes, combs and blow-dryers. Under the cord, above the toothbrushes and around the toilet. They seem to anticipate each other's moves. This confusion could have been avoided if they had staggered their alarms, but with limited sleep and long days, they hit snooze.

"You tend to get close quickly when you share a bedroom with someone you just met a week prior," said Soja. "I remember my first model when one of our delegates had to sleep on the couch in the room."

The group dynamic seems to be that of composed chaos with each delegate in different committees, yet all focused on representing the country and the school as best they can.

"We expect a lot of each other; we are a delegation not just a delegate," said Cole. "We do everything in the nature of the real United Nations."

Former students of the club have gone on to become an Army Colonel in intelligence, a United Nations employee overseeing the polio project in Asia, and a prosecuting attorney in Boston. "It's not a course in modeling. It is a course in foreign policy," said Steinberg. "It is to help you understand why a country thinks the way it does."

The van ride back gives the delegates a second wind as they sing at the top of their lungs to a pre-made CD by Cole. Whether they are releasing the stress of the weekend, or really like the song, they are showing a type of unrestrained vivacity that is generally frowned upon inside the model.

"Decorum please, delegates."

The team heads off to Boston next, the Harvard Model. There they will be portraying Tanzania, another small African nation that may not be known to most but is known inside and out by sixteen Westfield State College students.

Voice of the Week

Julian Fleron

Role at WSC: Professor of Mathematics

Years spent teaching at WSC: Eleven

Favorite part of the job: "Learning things alongside the students."

Inspiration for teaching: "When growing up, Carl Sagan was my hero and I wanted to inspire people to enjoy mathematics like he inspired people to enjoy astronomy."

What he wanted to be when he was little: "I imagined being all things."

Favorite Movie: Thief

Favorite Book: Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Favorite Song: Troy by Sinead O'connor

Favorite mathematical theory: The Infinite

Advice given to the mathematically confused: "Try to look at math as an art rather than just a science."

7TH ANNUAL DINING ETIQUETTE

Each spring, about 100 students join together in Scanlon Banquet Hall, wearing their best, to brush up on their fine dining skills at the annual Dining Etiquette Dinner. For a low cost, students are treated to a 7-course meal, and learn how to get ahead when dining with prospective employers. On February 24 of this year, Dining Etiquette will once again feature etiquette expert Carol A. McGuiggan to teach the dos and don'ts of dining. In the 7th year of the dinner, sponsored by Career Services and Residential Life, the program has always sold out. McGuiggan offers tips that can be helpful in any interview. Students, especially juniors and seniors about to enter internships or the workforce, are strongly encouraged to attend this enlightening event. For tickets and other information, call Career Services at X5206 or stop by in the Lammers Hall Annex.

Kerrin

her style seems more Broadway-bound than MTV-pop.

Taking the stage after Monty, who will end up taking third place to her second, she quips into the mic, "I don't have puppets."

People all over the country have seem pop-star-hopefuls show their stuff on national television on various contest shows. What is life really like for an aspiring performer studying Mass Communications and Art right here at Westfield State College?

Kerrin Clark is hard to get a hold of. In addition to her five-class schedule as a full time student in her junior year at Westfield State College, a few nights of her week are spent taking a total of five dance classes, as well as teaching dance, and teaching acting and singing lessons to kids for $50 dollars an hour. Her voicemail is cheery; adding to the standard greeting, "If you're calling about voice lessons, please leave the name and age of the child and your phone number."

> **"It's been my whole life's ambition."**
>
> **- Kerrin Clark**

She's had roles in musicals including *Quilt* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She's even performed at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. How did she land that? Entertainment scouts for the Olympic Games happened to be at Carnegie Hall when her group performed and were impressed with the group as a whole, as well as the group's soloists, her being one of them. Recently, there have been negotiations with a major record label over a record deal.

During last year's "Say What Karaoke" competition, she sang "Where Are You, Christmas," also placing second in the finals.

"She didn't win [first place], but she did really well," said friend Emily Ransom. Emily's demeanor is reserved but cheery, her light brown hair pulled back.

Ransom met Kerrin Clark freshman year, though Ransom cannot quite recall how, concluding that it was probably through mutual friends.

"I read the review of *Quilt*," she says. "I feel like I met her then."

Later the two trained together as orientation leaders.

Orientation involved "really long days," said Ransom. New students stayed at-the college overnight, so in the evenings there were activities for them to get involved in. Activities such as karaoke. It comes as no surprise that, while the new freshmen were perhaps a little shy and wouldn't sing, Clark "was always willing to be up there and everything," says Ransom.

Performing for an audience, it seems, is when Kerrin Clark comes most alive. There are singers, and then there are performers. Where some of the "Say What Karaoke" contestants the audience strains to hear over the music, Clark's vocals are full and powerful. Like any trained singer, this girl knows how to project. All while moving with ease.

Offstage, Clark is at once businesslike and dignified, and yet down to earth.

"She's very conscious of, like, everything. She notices people, the mood around her," says Ransom. Ransom also makes a note of Clark's "dry wit."

"She's a lot of fun. She's funny....She has the talent, which is the most critical, but has those other little things that will help her along the way."

During her most recent "Say What Karaoke" performance, her sense of humor shone through in her rendition of "Goodbye Earl," by the Dixie Chicks as she hams-it-up with a southern twang. When one of the judges commented on it and teased her, asking if she was making fun of country music, Clark was quick to smile cheekily. "No. Never."

Emily Ransom thinks that Clark has what it takes to make it in the music business. And she's not alone.

Communications Professor Nigel Dobereiner, who has had Clark in two of his classes in the past, says he was "impressed with the fact that she wasn't thinking she had to be mainstream," referring to what Clark had told him of her pop-classical recordings that Dobereiner says, "even [Clark] had trouble explaining."

Pop-classical, which is nearly non-existent in the United States, has a major following in Europe. It could loosely be described as classical vocals mixed with dance music.

"[Clark's music] has done well with European listeners and so I really respected that."

Dobereiner alternates between being serious and jovial, his eyes getting wide and his bright smile breaking through his serious speech at several points.

Like Ransom, he makes a point of drawing attention to Clark's unaffected attitude towards her success. He relays a story of Clark being recognized by European fans on a street in Boston.

According to Dobereiner, Clark was "very genuine about her excitement about that and not suck up, [not saying] 'well of course they recognized me,'" adding, "[She] has presence and could be successful if she gets in front of the right people."

So how does Kerrin feel about all of this herself?

Sitting down with Clark, she explained that her record deal had fallen through. Disappointed but optimistic, she is relaxed talking about it, her whole presence seeming to muse, "What next?"

She wears pink suede boots with a tan pleated skirt and a navy blue sweater over a white dress shirt. Matter-of-factly she says the record deal "wasn't working out for me."

The deal had been with a newer sublet company connected under a major music label.

"The album was supposed to come out two years ago," Clark said.

Telling people that the album was coming out in January, and then sometime in the summer, and then the following November proved to be very frustrating.

Of the whole ordeal, Clark says. "I'm still hoping to get signed by another company who won't make a liar out of me," she says with a slight grin. "I felt so bad telling people, 'Oh, it's gonna come out in January.'"

Not being able to do what Clark calls "community singing," like singing the National Anthem for athletic events became another factor that led to her decision to drop her record deal. Because of her contract, she wasn't allowed to sing for anything other than the company. She's since gone back to singing at games for Westfield State's athletic department and has most recently sung the National Anthem for the NCAA Championships. Her mother has recently agreed to pay for recording time so that she can have a copy of her singing the national anthem to show around.

Has she thought of singing for Broadway?

"[It's been] my whole life ambition," says Clark, who was singing songs from Annie to her parents at two, wearing a string of pearls with her footy pajamas. Her first role? A singing gypsy dancer with a solo in *Babes in Toyland* in fifth grade.

Two years ago, she auditioned for Disney and was picked to play Belle (from *Beauty and the Beast*) in Tokyo, but had to turn it down.

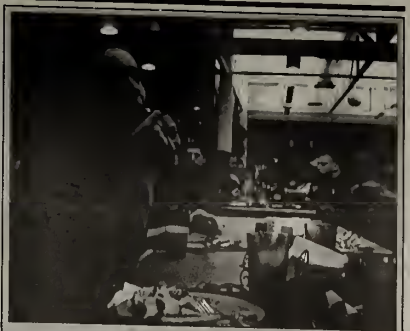
"My parents were not really keen on me going to the other side of the planet," adding that, at the time, she was just eighteen years old.

What would Kerrin Clark like to do if she doesn't make it big as a performer?

"If I ever in a million years become famous," she said, she'd love to have "a clothing line or something." But if not, she'll take being "a fashion expert or a personal assistant."

For now, though, Kerrin Clark's focus is still on performing. So how does she get ready for a performance?

"I sing in the car. I have to go on a ride, drive around. I probably look like a freak," she muses, "at every stoplight."



-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

Sophomore student Gisel Cahoon enjoys a tasty apple at the Dining Commons.

Sidewalks

that particular brewery, to pick up a bottle of "Coffeehouse Porter," and compare the scents. According to Dave, they are "exactly the same."

Of course, not everyone is partial to the smell of beer.

Even though the smell might be causing some students to hold their breath while walking to classes, Dave assures us that this spray is not harmful to students or the environment.

> **"Dave has also admitted to tasting the product, which he admits is bitter, despite the "great smell" and also confirms the fact that it's completely harmless."**

"Ecologically, it's a definite plus. It's better for cars, less salt. Less corrosion," Dave said. "If there was any kind of risk to the campus or the students, it wouldn't be used. We're liability conscious but we're also ecologically conscious."

If it's going to snow, the maintenance workers will go out with a couple of fixtures and put a very light spray on the roads and on the sidewalks and as it starts to rain or snow, it melts on contact. Not only does this save time, but it also cuts down on labor costs, which ultimately saves money.

It also cuts down on the costs and use of sand and salt on campus. And since there is less salt, there is less damage to the grass and other plants.

Salt is used to defer the danger of ice. However, salt tends to stop the freezing of water at about twenty degrees. Compared to the spray, which begins to work at negative temperatures and melts the snow and ice on contact, makes for a much safer walking and driving environment

Taking into consideration unstable Massachusetts winter weather, spraying the pavement early can hinder a late night freezing.

"If the pavement happens to start icing up at 3 in the morning, then we're covered," Dave said.

Dave has also admitted to tasting the product, which he admits is bitter, despite the "great smell" and also confirms the fact that it's completely harmless.

Next time anyone happens to pick up the scent, whether or not they like it, they can expect a snow storm and safe sidewalks.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

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The Hu Ka Lau (X-rated hypnotist, food, ect.)
Comedy Connection in Boston

Events are closed to the public and you can only get in with a packet.

MUST BE 21 + TO ATTEND!

Voices Overheard

With Subway gone how are you coping?

Scott Bruce
Class of 2006
Criminal Justice

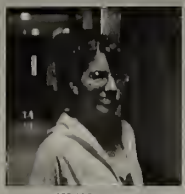
"I'm doing alright, I don't really eat there. Quiznos is better anyways."

Lianne Lajoie
Class of 2008
History/Education

"I get a lot more grilled cheese from the grill."

Samantha Ford
Class of 2008
Biology

"I order tons of take-out."



Jill Thomas
Class of 2007
Elementary Education

"I feel like a piece of my heart is gone and neither the Corner Cafe nor the grill can fill the void."

Voices Overheard compiled by Bridget Gleason

PERSONA

The Literary Magazine of Westfield State College

Call for Creative Writing Papers:
i.e. poetry, short stories,
creative non-fiction
Also Accepting Submissions for Cover Art
No More than 15 Submissions per Person
No Works Longer than 5 Pages in Length
Please Submit
Two Copies of Your Work
(one with name, one without)
in the English Department Office
(Bates 103)
by March 4, 2005

Please contact Jessi Ulmer at Musique0615@hotmail.com
or Prof. Glen Brewster at gbrewster@wsc.ma.edu with any questions

Infrantry division returns to a different Iraq

By David Zucchino
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- On his fourth day in Iraq, Staff Sgt. Jason Dene ventured for the first time outside his unit's fortified base near the densely packed Sadr City slum and plunged into its mud-slicked streets.

Dene manned an M-240 machine gun on an armored Humvee, scanning the garbage-strewn pavement for roadside bombs. He had been warned to expect the worst -- car bombs, rocks and ball bearings flung from slingshots.

"I'm paying close attention, believe me," Dene said, a loaded shotgun at his elbow and a medical kit at his feet.

Dene and fellow infantrymen of the 3rd Infantry Division were on a combined patrol, trying to learn about patrolling hostile neighborhoods in Sadr City from the departing 1st Cavalry Division.

The 3rd Infantry, which led the assault on Baghdad during the 2003 invasion, is back in charge of the capital. They will have to fight a different war, placing equal emphasis on combat operations, training the Iraqi army, and rebuilding infrastructure.

About 65 percent of the 3rd Infantry's 20,000 soldiers fought face-to-face battles in 2003 against Saddam Hussein's army, Republican Guards, fedayeen militiamen and Arab jihadis. Today, the enemy is an a network of Iraqi and foreign insurgents waging a classic guerrilla war of hit-and-run and sabotage.

"The last time the 3rd Infantry was here, they were in the business of fighting a war," said Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, the 1st Cavalry's assistant division commander. "Now they're in the business of developing Iraqi security forces and the essential services of Iraq."

"The last tme the 3rd Infrantry was here, they were in the business of fighting a war. Now they're in the business of veloing Iraqi security forces and the essential services of Iraq."

-Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

This week, the joint patrol was on a mission that included delivery of a thousand frozen Brazilian chickens to a poor Sadr City neighborhood. Five armored Humvees, plus a flatbed truck of Iraqi army trainees, plowed through raw sewage and rotting vegetables. The soldiers were met by cold stares, rocks, posters of the Shiite Muslim firebrand Muqtada al-Sadr and graffiti in English: "No No USA. Yes Yes RPG."

Hundreds of children and a smattering of adults waved wildly and flashed thumbs up signs. At every stop, young boys mobbed the soldiers, grinning and mugging for the troops' digital cameras.

Along the way, the 1st Cavalry veterans pointed out chunks of roadway gouged out by recent roadside bombs, known as IEDs, or improvised explosive devices.

The First Cavalry arrived last spring in time to fight a bitter, weeks-long battle with Sadr's Mahdi militia. The division's soldiers fought a second round against the same militia in August and September. Their bases were pounded regularly by mortars and rockets. Members of the unit say the situation in Sadr City has improved markedly since October, though roadside bombs and car bombs are a constant threat. Soldiers are required to wear shatterproof goggles and ballistic earplugs.

Capt. Brendan Ormond, a 3rd Infantry officer, said his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb as it entered Baghdad for the first time three days earlier. From the front seat of a Humvee, listening to 1st Cavalry voices over the radio, Ormond warned Dene to stay alert in his rooftop perch.

"You need to watch for rocks 360 (degrees)," he said. "And don't let any civilian vehicles into the convoy."

Dene lowered a plastic riot shield over his face to protect himself against slingshots.

On patrol, the most prosaic items can pose a mortal threat -- a parked car, a donkey cart, a pile of garbage, a taxi that suddenly pulls alongside a convoy. The 1st Cavalry soldiers recounted how they survived the explosion of a bomb hidden in a vegetable cart earlier this month.

Two 3rd Infantry soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in Bayji, north of Baghdad, less than two weeks after arriving in Iraq. Even though Sadr City is less violent than last summer, the 1st Cavalry soldiers warned the newcomers that the neighborhoods could explode at any time.

"Right now, it seems easy, with just IEDs and rocks to worry about," said Capt. Josh Davis, commander of the 3rd Infantry company on the patrol. "But we know from the 1st Cav guys that you have to be ready for the other shoe to drop."

Dance may be the best step for some seeking health benefits

By Stephanie Shapiro
The Baltimore Sun

When it comes to personifying the health benefits of dancing, Frankie Manning is Exhibit A.

One of the Lindy Hop's greatest innovators, Manning, 90, teaches the acrobatic dance at workshops around the world.

"Dancing is a very good exercise, and it's a wonderful exercise because it's a partner dance," says Manning, who invented the Lindy's hallmark "airstep," a move that sends a woman rolling over her partner's back and safely back to earth.

"You're not alone taking these exercises," Manning says by phone from his New York home. "In all these years, that's what helped me keep my health up."

Those who think exercise is boring may not realize that social dancing has all the moves. Whether it's a slow waltz or a breathless jitterbug, dance is a comprehensive exercise that works the heart, mind and soul simultanoously.

Especially when practiced routinely, couples dancing, as well as line dancing, combines a cardiovascular workout with toning, muscle control and endurance training. Dance improves balance and flexibility and has been found in one study to help prevent dementia.

What's more, "you really develop a sense of discipline," says Tracey Vlahovic, a professor at the Temple University School of Pediatric Medicine and champion ballroom dancer. Dancing, Vlahovic says, "teaches you spatial relationships. You have to know where you are in space and where your partner is."

For Lori Edwards, a nursing teacher at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a doctoral student, weekly attendance at Baltimore's Friday Night Swing Club not only provides a solid acrobic workout, "it gives you an outlet to forget about everything."

Although she occasionally runs, walks and exercises at the pool and gym, Edwards, 47, considers dance to be "a regular form of exercise." It is "cardiac exercise, it's flexibility, it's fine motor and gross motor movement exercise," she says.

"Even more important, probably, is the mental-health aspect," Edwards says. "You're connecting with dance partners, and you're always learning how to relate to a new person through dance. It's nonthreatening, and it's fun."

Recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, ballroom dancing can qualify as an effective form of exercise depending on your goal, says Dr. Andrew Tucker. The medical director of Sports Medicine and family practice physician at Union Memorial Hospital takes a cautious view of the overall physical benefits of social dancing.

"This kind of activity is not going to be of the magnitude that's going to impart a high level of fitness," he says.

But if your goal is to engage in 30 minutes of aerobic activity most days of the week, as recommended by the American College of Sports Medicine, then moderate dancing certainly qualifies, Tucker says.

The "social interaction" required by couples dancing is perhaps its most valuable health advantage, Tucker notes. The activity offers "positive reinforcement (for those) who have trouble staying with an exercise program."

In addition, dance is an "essentially fairly low-impact" activity that can be easier on the joints than other activities, he points out.

Anecdotal evidence from veteran dancers, though, suggests that fast tempos and elaborate choreography make for a solid workout. Judging by sweat alone, a night of high-intensity spinning and turning is more strenuous than a sedate evening of fox-trotting.

According to www.caloriesperhour.com, a middle-age woman of average height would burn 184 calories doing the foxtrot for one hour, and 294 calories if she spent that hour doing the jitterbug. Jogging burns 429 calories per hour, according to the Web site, but dancers will tell you it's not nearly as fun.

When Bianca Lavies enrolled in a beginners' swing dance class five years ago, the Annapolis, Md., photographer and author found an unanticipated benefit. "The first year, I started in March. By September, I had lost 30 pounds," says Lavies, who won't divulge her age. "It's not that I didn't do any other exercise," but swing dance "was the only thing that made me lose that weight. It was amazing."

Lavies began with dance lessons at a local high school. She remembers thinking, "Wow, if this makes me feel so good, then I should do more of it." Now, she swing dances three times a week. "When I'm on that dance floor, I'm so happy, I feel like a child having fun," she says.

Lavies believes that a night of serious swing dancing releases an internal shower of uplifting endorphins. That's the only explanation for the night she danced and danced, oblivious to a wrist she had broken during an earlier tumble. Then, "of course I danced with my cast for a month," she says.

At the Waxter Senior Center, teacher Leon Britain leads the High Steppers, a select troupe of dancers, through the "Praise Song," "Bump and Grind" and other high-energy line dances. Fifteen women and one man in their late 60s, 70s and 80s shimmy and slide, tap toes, turn and kick. Radiant smiles break out among the members, who have performed on stages throughout the city.

Line dancing is not only rejuvenating and fun, it can help to prevent dementia, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2003. "Dancing was the only physical activity associated with a lower risk of dementia," according to the report.

If she didn't dance, "I probably would be sitting in a rocking chair by now," says Mary Smith, 78.

For Mary Flanagan, 79, dancing has eased the pain of an arthritic knee and kept her from dwelling on the deaths last year of her husband and son. She welcomes the challenge of line dancing. "You have to think," she says before scurrying back out to the floor for another dance.

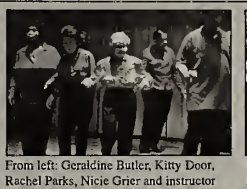
In their own ways, others have discovered the restorative properties bestowed by a night of energetic dancing. Wayne Sipe, 63, and his wife, Patti, 59, follow seven rock and swing bands around the Baltimore-Washington region. The more you dance, the younger you remain, says Sipe, a grocer from Landover, Md. "The ones that do it three times a week, it's unbelievable to see their energy," says Sipe, who dances with his wife two to three times a week.

They have been married 40 years and dancing 15 years. "We're late bloomers," Sipe says. Inspired by hours spent watching "The Buddy Deane Show," a Baltimore TV dance program, he had vowed to learn to dance decades ago.

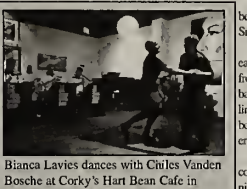
Dancing keeps Sipe's memory sharp, he says -- "just because you've got to remember certain things at certain times in certain dances. You've got swing, which we prefer, you've got slow, you've got cha-cha, you've got rumba, you've got tango, polka, merengue, samba."

There are always more steps to learn.

Sipe feels great when he and his wife swoop across the dance floor. "It lights me up when I'm dancing -- I forget about the store and family problems. I have no thoughts on my mind when I'm dancing. I feel like I'm 39," he says.



From left: Geraldine Butler, Kitty Door, Rachel Parks, Nicie Grier and instructor Leon Britain, of the Waxter Center High Steppers, rehearse.



Bianca Lavies dances with Chiles Vanden Bosche at Corky's Hart Bean Cafe in Severna Park, MD. Dancing keeps her young, she says.

Both photos by Stephanie Shapiro of The Baltimore Sun

Study: ex-felons have hard time getting on voting rolls

By Elise Castelli
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON -- About 1.5 million convicted felons who have completed their sentences are still denied the right to vote, according to a report released Wednesday.

Fourteen states have voting-rights restoration processes so cumbersome and confusing that former felons are disenfranchised because they lack means to navigate the system, says the report issued by the Sentencing Project, a non-profit group that studies criminal-justice issues.

Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska and Virginia all permanently disenfranchise individuals with a felony conviction; eight states -- Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee, Washington and Wyoming -- prohibit voting based on specific criteria, such as the type or number of convictions. The process to regain voting rights varies from state to state; in 11 of these states, fewer than 3 percent of ex-felons have their rights restored.

"It's a combination of a lack of information, poor technology and limited assistance," said Marc Mauer, assistant director of the Sentencing Project and a co-author of the report.

"In most states, relatively few people even know about the process or get any kind of assistance in navigating that process -- and that tells us something about the lack of priority some of these states place on this topic."

In some states, the process requires former prisoners to seek a pardon. Others have waiting periods as long as a decade before an ex-felon can begin to apply to have his rights restored.

To remedy these perceived wrongs, the report suggests that states repeal bans on voting by individuals who have completed their sentences, eliminate waiting periods for restoration, help eligible people through the process, and report annually on the number of restorations applied for and granted.

The group, which supports alternatives to incarceration, also suggests imposing alternative sentences, such as treatment programs for substance-abuse cases, to prevent the consequences of a felony conviction.

Restoring an ex-felon's right to vote can help the person stay out of trouble, Mauer contended.

"Good job, family and community connections are critical, and voting is one more factor that gives a positive connection to the community -- and any time you can increase the positive connections, that contributes to reducing crime," he said.

Todd Gaziano, director of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at the conservative Heritage Foundation, disagreed. "I don't think you help in a rehabilitation process to give something to someone automatically," he said. "It helps in the rehabilitation process if you have to demonstrate worthiness."

Gaziano said more states should adopt review processes like the 14 that the Sentencing Project criticizes.

"The reform that is really needed is for more states to actually require some demonstration that the felon is deserving to join the body politic again," he said. "Do we trust felons to automatically have guns back when they serve their time?"

California is one of 34 states that automatically restores voting rights once a prison sentence or parole period is complete. Two states -- Maine and Vermont -- allow prisoners to vote.

'Winn-Dixie': best in show

By Desson Thomson
The Washington

Opal (AnnaSophia Robb) wants someone to love.

She just rolled into sleepy old Naomi, Fla., with her preacher father (Jeff Daniels) and doesn't know a soul. It's not the life to make a lonely girl jump for joy. She lives in a trailer park with dad. She hasn't seen her mother since she was 3. Dad has to preach in makeshift Sunday gatherings at the local convenience store. And the other kids in town aren't particularly welcoming, including two buzz-headed brothers (Nick Price and Luke Benward) who taunt her all the time.

In Wayne Wang's family-friendly charmer, "Because of Winn-Dixie," Opal's loneliness is turned around when she sees a fuzzball of a dog running amok in the local Winn-Dixie shopping store, causing a catastrophe of spilled food and upended clerks. Realizing instantly that she has found her special companion, she assures the manager she owns the wet-nosed pooch, a Picardy shepherd, and takes it home.

If you're of a certain age, or you rent from the classics shelves, you've seen those charming old Disney fuzzers of yore, with children falling in love with critters of every shape and size. Wang's movie follows that tradition (the story's based on the popular Kate DiCamillo book of the same name) but transforms it into a homespun celebration of eccentricity. Everyone's got their own funny foibles and independent spirit.

Dad has to promise his grumpy, dog-hating landlord (B.J. Hopper) that he'll look for someone to adopt Winn-Dixie. But no one has counted on Winn-Dixie's ability to win everybody over, even if he can't seem to avoid pulling down clotheslines and running into trouble. He, almost literally, drags Opal into new relationships. Thanks to him, she meets Otis (singer Dave Matthews), a laconic but sweet-natured clerk at the local pet store, who likes to play his guitar for the animals; genial librarian Miss Franny (Eva Marie Saint); and an eccentric lady (Cicely Tyson) who lives alone and has a glorious tree in her yard practically gift-wrapped with hanging bottles to scare ghosts away. Even those buzz-haired brothers change their tune.

Wang, who made "Chan Is Missing," "Eat a Bowl of Tea" and "The Joy Luck Club," has a sure touch when it comes to building worlds full of innocent charmers. But his real coup is in the casting. Matthews is a likable presence, a subtly magical drifter who strums catchy tunes and knows how to talk back to a rude parrot. And most importantly, Wang has found the perfect young leading lady -- Robb (who will play Violet Beauregarde opposite Johnny Depp in the upcoming "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") is a puckery scamp who suggests a 10-year-old Keira Knightley. She's also remarkably assured; there isn't a false note in her performance. And not only does she take full charge of the movie, she manages to outcharm the Picardy.

-File Photo

AnnaSophia Robb stars in the hit "Because of Winn-Dixie," based on the book by Kate DiCamillo.

FDA to create board to monitor drugs already on market

By Ricardo Alfonso-Zaldivar
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON – The Food and Drug Administration, responding to concern about dangerous side effects in drugs it approved for use by millions of consumers, said Tuesday that it would create a new safety board to better protect the public.

The new Drug Safety Oversight Board, staffed primarily by FDA and other government scientists but receiving help from outside experts as well, is to focus on spotting and responding quickly to signs of problems with drugs that have been approved for market. Board members will have direct access to the FDA commissioner.

A Web page, meantime, will be created to help transmit early warning information to researchers, doctors and patients.

The announcement of the safety measures marked a turn in the Bush administration's effort to deal with an increasingly high-profile problem.

It came one day before a major scientific conference was scheduled to begin examining several widely prescribed drugs that turned out to have dangerous side effects. The conference is expected to produce recommendations that could have far-reaching effects for tens of millions of patients, as well as for billions of dollars in drug industry revenues.

In particular, the focus of the three-day conference will be on a class of painkiller drugs called COX-2 inhibitors, which includes Vioxx and Celebrex. Also, possible risks of naproxen, the active ingredient in Alleve, will be considered.

Some members of Congress and outside critics said that the steps announced Tuesday did not go far enough. The agency has come under mounting public pressure in recent months after one of its own scientists and several outside experts spotlighted its failure to act quickly on evidence of problems with approved drugs.

Senior federal officials appeared to recognize that more sweeping changes would have to follow.

Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, announcing the plans in a speech to FDA employees, said his ultimate goal is nothing less than a transformation of their agency to instill "a culture of openness, an enhanced sense of independence (and) a commitment to monitor drugs after they have been approved."

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester M. Crawford said the agency must change an existing culture that has placed a high priority on not alarming the public when warning signs pop up.

"When we get a signal, we find that in the majority of cases, it was a false signal," Crawford said, explaining the FDA's traditional reluctance to publicize early signs of trouble with approved drugs. But he added: "That era has passed. What the public is demanding is to know as soon as we know."

"Our system can best be described as a passive system," Crawford said, relying heavily on drug makers to report potentially dangerous problems. The government must play a more active role in spotting and responding to signs of trouble, he said.

Officials said they would move quickly to put the new safety measures in place. No information was provided on costs. Reacting to the announcement of the new safety board and the Drug Watch site on the Web, some members of Congress and other critics said more far-reaching reforms were needed.

"This is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go nearly far enough," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. "Consumer confidence in the FDA has been shaken to the core, and it will take more than cosmetic reforms to fix structural problems within the agency."

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, said he would move ahead with legislation to create an independent drug safety office and establish a public registry for clinical trials conducted by drug manufacturers.

"Much more needs to be done to strengthen FDA's ability to address drug safety," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. "The agency needs to have additional resources, additional authority, and strong leadership at its helm."

Concern about problems in drugs already approved for the market was triggered in part by evidence that at least some drugs in a class of pain-killers called COX-2 inhibitors carried increased risks of heart attacks and strokes. Among the drugs in this class are Vioxx, Celebrex and Bextra.

The FDA approved Vioxx in 1999 for arthritis-related pain. It was taken by millions of patients despite mounting scientific concerns that it could lead to heart attacks and strokes. Manufacturer Merck withdrew Vioxx from the market last fall after a company-sponsored study confirmed the risks.

Celebrex and Bextra remain on the market but the FDA has recommended that doctors prescribe them in limited situations.

The scientific meeting that begins Wednesday under the FDA's aegis is widely seen as a test of the agency's commitment to playing a more vigorous watchdog role.

Two advisory panels – one on drug safety, the other on arthritis medications – will jointly hear technical presentations on the risks and benefits of COX-2 inhibitors. They will also hear evidence on potential heart risks with naproxen, the active ingredient in Aleve, a nonprescription pain-killer.

"This whole experience reveals the inadequacy of the tools that we've used to assure the public that newly approved drugs are safe for widespread use," said Arthur Levin, director of the New York-based Center for Medical Consumers, and a member of one of the advisory panels.

Drugs are only tested on a few thousand people before they are approved. Dangerous side effects – if they are rare – may not emerge until hundreds of thousands of patients have used a medication.

"This is a very imperfect system for predicting the future," said Levin of standard clinical tests. "The COX-2 lesson is that you can get into big trouble. We've been lucky in many respects."

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I was encouraged to see on the cover of last week's Campus Voice that the editorial staff saw fit to open up a dialogue about sex at WSC. Certainly, there is much that needs to be diseussed around sex and sexuality among college students. Such a conversation could be fun—and funny—but could also serve an educational purpose and address the fact that sex is a serious topic. However, the trivial nature of the first two questions—"What is your favorite sexual position?" and "Where is the strangest place you've done it on campus?" left me disappointed, and the disrespect shown toward my colleagues and me in the question, "Which Professor on campus would you most like to get it on with?" left me angry.

First, to address the experience of being singled out in the survey write-up, I want to say how extremely uncomfortable I feel to be talked about in this way by students, whom I respect and from whom I expect respect. The classroom is a professional space, and the Campus Voice piece has now made that space hostile for me, thus undermining my ability to do my work well and with confidence. It may be helpful to include here the Equal Opportunity Commission's definition of sexual harassment in the workplace, which includes "unwelcome . . . verbal...conduct of a sexual nature when... such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment." My colleagues and I became teachers beeause we care about students, so it is both offensive and hurtful to be disrespected by those we serve.

As for talking about sex on our eampus, I'd like to propose a more serious discussion. Some survey questions might include: If you choose not to be sexually active, how do your peers judge that decision? Do you feel confident about your knowledge regarding the prevention of pregnaney and sexually transmitted infections? Whose responsibility is contraception in a heterosexual encounter? Do you feel comfortable insisting on a man using a condom during sex? If you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, do you feel safe discussing your sexual orientation and—if you are sexually active—your sex life on this campus? If you are a man, what are you willing to do to help reduce rape and sexual assault among college students? Is consent given under the influence of alcohol or drugs actually consent? If you or a friend were sexually assaulted, do you know where to go for help? Do you feel confident about your body? Have you ever used unhealthy weight loss strategies in an attempt to become more sexually desirable? Do you view women who have multiple sexual partners in the same way as you view men who have multiple sexual partners?

Sexuality can offer empowerment, joy, and fulfillment when sex is part of a caring connection between trusting partners. For many college students, these are important years in the process of leaming about one's sexuality, a process that raises many serious questions about health and well-being. A college campus should be a plaee where we can have an adult dialogue about sex. And, when an estimated one in four U.S. college women is a vietim of rape or attempted rape, any discussion of sex in a college setting must also address that date rape and sexual assault are serious threats to women. Let's really talk about sex, and let us do so respectfully and responsibly.

- Vanessa Holford Diana
Women's Studies Program Coordinator

To the Editor:

Mr. Pageau:

When you passed me two weeks ago and told me, "if you don't like your job you should get to the back of the unemployment line," my reflexes were a bit too frozen to respond to you before you walked away. I've been looking for you since so I could give you my answer.

Now that I know who you are, here it is:

I'm outside beeause I love my job. I'm outside beeause I am honored to be some small part of Westfield State College's long and historic contributions to public edueation and teacher education. Most importantly, I am outside because of my commitment to students and their right to pursue a quality public higher edueation in Massachusetts.

If I did not have the highest regard for students and the educations they eam here I would not be outside.

The many charges that you level publicly in your article are not only patently false but diametrically opposed to my real reasons for protesting. My protest is one man's attempt to safeguard the viability of public education for all students. For those who don't understand this, I invite you to come speak with me or pick up a copy of an informational flyer I am distributing in both my formal office hours outside and my many informal office hours inside.

I am doing my job - as are my colleagues who are 590 days without a contract, the APA and AFSCME members who are owed thousands of dollars in back pay, and the students who have come here with the expectations of being allowed to pursue quality educations. You are not. As a journalist you have chosen neither to consider nor investigate the truth, abusing the responsibility that freedom of speech requires. Had you done your job you might have found that the greatest irresponsibility lies with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which expects a viable system of public higher education without commensurate financial support. That's the story you missed.

That is why I am outside and why I'll stay there.

Anybody who wants to leam more can see me any time.

- Julian F. Fleron, Phd
Professor of Mathematics

To the Editor:

Dear "Left-Handed Elephant":

I am writing to discuss your reeent article on Dr. Fleron and the contract negotiations among the teachers entitled "588 days without a contract? How many more days 'til you shut up and do your job?" I am a senior here at WSC and I am also the daughter of a fourth grade teacher. This may not seem relevant but my mother has been on the eommittee to discuss teacher contract negotiations for years and I've seen what she has gone through.

It is hard for me to understand how you cannot have sympathy for the professors here. My experience with the professors has been nothing but positive. Two years ago I was considering transferring but the deciding factor was how amazing the faculty is at WSC and how they really care about their students and truly want them to succeed.

588 days without a contract is a problem for the faculty and it's appalling. I thought Dr. Fleron's protest was more than admirable especially considering he stood out in the freezing cold to make his point. You say that you wish that the faculty would "grow some balls and strike." If they strike they will automatically lose their jobs and they know this. Dr. Fleron seems to be practicing what is called "work to rule." This is a strategy that many teachers practice during contract negotiations to prove their point. That's right, no professor here has to overload students into classes, and they do it as a courtesy. Dr. Fleron is working strictly within the limits of his contract. Therefore, you are wrong to claim that Dr. Fleron is not doing his job because, on the contrary, his job is exactly what he is doing.

Our professors deserve to have a contract and instead of ealling them whiney and elaiming that Dr. Fleron is using "guerilla warfare" against the students, we as a student body should be coming together to support our professors and get them the contract that they deserve. We are only here for four years, while this college is the professors' livelihood, and if our faculty docs not make noise about the fact that they do not have a contract, how are they ever going get a fair settlement in negotiations?

- Shannon Bourne

To the Editor:

I would like to voice my appreciation of Bob McDonald's article on the poor condition of the Apartments. I have personally been witness to the poor conditions of both Davis and the Apartments. But this brings a much bigger concern to the table as well.

Upkeep of all of Westfield's aging buildings has been a growing concern of mine since I first started school here.

Parenzo and Bates are twenty years behind eode, and often entire class locations must be changed because handieapped people can't make it up and down the stairs. There are still areas on eampus that contain asbestos and current eampus infrastructure is stretched to its limits. All of us I'm sure have experianced extensive internet delays, random power outages, long lines in the Dining Commons, and problems with parking and the shuttle. I can understand that it's difficult to upgrade an aging campus, but herein lies the problem. Rather than renovate and update the ancient buildings on campus like Parenzo and Bates, or the dorms in Davis and the Apartments; the administration continues to construct new buildings whose sheer size don't fit the character of the school, and I'm confident the schools resources won't be able to handle the needs of the additional students that will be living on campus.

The administration should be more concerned with the current campus before worrying about expanding it.

- Taylor Silver

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Democrats (and Dean) for America

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

The Democrats took a big hit in the last election and now it's time for them to fight back. The position of chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee became an open seat when Terry McAuliffe left after the last election. He left the committee in a good standing, with plenty of funds left over to begin campaigning for the 2006 and 2008 elections. Howard Dean announced that he would be running for the seat and when all his opponents dropped out, Dr. Dean had pretty much won the seat. Many of you may remember Dean as the hot-headed presidential candidate whose surprising loss in the Iowa caucus eventually led to the end of his campaign. He started a political action committee called Democracy for America soon after and began his quest to save America. But when the seat became vacant, Dean jumped at the opportunity to take the leadership position is his party.

When Dean first declared that he would be seeking the seat, many of his peers in the party questioned his competence. Not only is Dean known for his outspoken demeanor and that one loud scream, some have dismissed him as another "crazy liberal." But in reality, Dean is a lot more like Bill Clinton rather than Dennis Kuchinich. Not only is he supported by the NRA and supports the death penalty, he is fiscally conservative and has supported the cutting of Medicare; not exactly the left-winger that he was often portrayed as in the eleven o'clock news.

"Americans cannot trust Republicans with their money. We need to be proud to be Democrats."

- Howard Dean

So what exactly are the duties of the chair of the DNC? "To execute the party's message." More specifically, the chairman is the one that organizes the party at the national level that entails balancing and raising money that will help fund campaigns across the country. Dean has already posted a four-step plan on the website which includes showing up (hey, good idea), setting core principles, having successes at the state and local level, and using the internet. It was Dean who started an internet revolution in the last election when he raised millions through his website, Dean for America. He has called for a grass-roots way of organizing and standing up for what the Democrats believe in. He proclaimed that the Democrats cannot embrace the Republicans but instead start to fight back.

Dr. Dean's blunt comments have left a few skeptical in his party. But he has wasted no time in trying to convince them; instead he's gone on the attack about all the issues ranging from religion to the ever-so touchy Social Security.

"Americans cannot trust the Republicans with their money," he said in his acceptance speech.

"We need to be proud to be Democrats."

Looking ahead to the future is what the Democrats are all about because the present isn't looking so good for them. As long as President Bush doesn't change the Constitution and start a dynasty of his own, the Democrats may have a fighting chance of regaining the White House in 2008. If Howard Dean had his way, it would be a Democrat living on Pennsylvania Avenue and he's going to do everything in his power to make that happen.

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Kappa Delta Pi cluster meeting held at Westfield State College

SUBMITTED BY
JENNIFER GOULD

On February 5, 2005, the Westfield State College Iota Iota Chapter of the national education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, hosted a Northeast professional development conference.

The conference was led by Ms. Mindy Fairchild, the Kappa Delta Pi Northeast chapter resource consultant.

She provided all attendees with up- to- date information about the society and facilitated discussions of how to improve each chapter's efficacy within their respective college and local communities.

This conference, known as a Cluster Meeting, involved group discussion and goal setting ideas for campus leaders of Kappa Delta Pi.

Several colleges in the New England and New York regions were represented at the Cluster Meeting, including Springfield College, Fitchburg State College, Manhattan College, Central Connecticut State College, the University of Hartford, and Mount Saint Mary College.

Both faculty advisors and student leaders attended the meeting which focused on professional development, fund-raising ideas, membership recruitment and retention, rewards and recognition, service projects, and publicity.

Westfield State's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi has approximately 70 current members and the student board includes Gina Goralczyk and Holly-Beth Burns, copresidents; Kerri Drain, treasurer; Jen Gould, historian; and Stacy Baral, secretary.

Board members both organized and attended the meeting along with the current and past advisors.

The Honor Society raises money for education related projects in the community and plans professional and social activities throughout the academic year for its pre-service teaching members.

WSC juniors and seniors who have declared education as one of their majors and who meet the academic and program qualifications are identified and initiated to the local chapter of Kappa Delta Pi each year.

Photo by: Jessica Bates

Left to right KDP Board members with the National Representative; Jennifer Gould Historian, Holly-Beth Burns, Co-President, Keri Drain, Treasurer, Ms. Mindy Fairchild, National Representative, Gina Goralczyk, Co-President, Stacy Baral, Secretary.

Photo by: Jessica Bates

Gina Goralczyk, co-president, participating in small group discussions with representatives of other college chapters at the cluster meeting.

Photo by: Jessica Bates

Dr. Lolly Templeton, WSC Associate Professor of Education and past KDP counselor and Dr. Kathleen Itterly, WSC Assistant Professor of Education and current co-counselor.

Let The Voice be your creative outlet.

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thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Arts & Entertainment

Low down on the Oscars

By Dan Cooper
Voice Reporter

Martin Scorsese's epic biopic on billionaire Howard Hughes, *The Aviator*, leads all Best Picture nominees with eleven nominations, but Clint Eastwood's boxing drama *Million Dollar Baby* is close behind with seven nominations and a ton of momentum following wins for Eastwood as Best Director at both the Golden Globes and the Director's Guild Awards.

Both Eastwood and Scorsese are in a neck-and-neck battle for Best Director, a prize Scorsese has never won but long deserved. Eastwood's recent accolades have, however, made him the frontrunner. Eastwood won a directing Oscar for 1992's *Unforgiven*, which still gives Scorsese a chance to finally win Hollywood's biggest prize.

The other Best Director nominees are Alexander Payne for *Sideways*, Taylor Hackford for *Ray*, and Mike Leigh for the British drama *Vera Drake*.

Best Picture is also a neck-and-neck race between *Baby* and *Aviator*. Scorsese's film looked like the early frontrunner, but *Million Dollar Baby* has been picking up steam at the right time. The one thing *Baby* has going against it, however, is the fact that in the last 20 years, the leading nominee has won Best Picture eighteen times.

The remaining three films fighting for Best Picture are *Finding Neverland*, *Ray*, and *Sideways*.

In the Best Actor race, Jamie Foxx looks like he can't be beaten for his tremendous performance as Ray Charles in *Ray*. The man to watch out for, however, is surprise nominee Clint Eastwood. Eastwood has never won an acting Oscar, and this is just his second nomination. No one saw his nomination coming, meaning he has impressive support among Academy members.

Leonardo Dicaprio (*The Aviator*), Johnny Depp (*Finding Neverland*) and Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda*) round out the nominees.

Hilary Swank looks tough to beat in the Best Actress category. Her powerful performance in *Baby* could give her her second Oscar in 5 years, following 1999's win for *Boys Don't Cry*. Her chief rival is also the woman she upset in 1999, Annette Bening, nominated for *Being Julia*. The other nominee to watch out for is Imelda Staunton for *Vera Drake*, who could surprise with an upset, given the surprise nominations her film received.

The other nominees are Kate Winslet for *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and Catalina Sandino Moreno for *Maria Full of Grace*.

The Supporting Actor/Actress races showcase some well-respected actors and actresses who could walk away with a win. In the Supporting Actor race, well-respected actors Morgan Freeman and Alan Alda are nominated for *Baby* and *Aviator*. Freeman, another "overdue" icon, looks primed to finally win. Alda is enjoying his first career nomination, as are Thomas Haden Church for *Sideways* and Clive Owen for *Closer*. Nominee number five is Best Actor favorite Foxx, securing a nod for *Collateral*.

For Supporting Actress, Cate Blanchett is the favorite for her portrayal of Oscar's biggest winner, Katherine Hepburn, in *The Aviator*. Virginia Madsen for *Sideways* or Natalie Portman for *Closer* could pull off a surprise, however.

The other nominees are Laura Linney for *Kinsey* and Sophie Okonedo for *Hotel Rwanda*.

This year's race has proved exciting from start to finish. Scorsese vs. Eastwood is the biggest story of this year's Oscar ceremony.

Chesney takes listeners on musical vacation

By Dan Cooper
Voice Reporter

Anyone who is a fan of country singer Kenny Chesney should know of his love for the Caribbean islands. For his latest album, *Be as You Are: Songs from an Old Blue Chair*, Chesney dedicates the entire CD as a tribute to the islands. The result is a side of Chesney rarely seen before.

This album is different from any of Chesney's previous releases. Aside from every song having an island theme, Chesney wrote or co-wrote every track on this release.

-File Photo

The cover of Chesney's new album *Be As You Are: Songs From An Old Blue Chair.*

Chesney opens the CD with the closing song from his *When the Sun Goes Down* album, *Old Blue Chair*. This is a reflective song on Chesney's life and how it has been changed by the island way of life.

The title track, *Be as You Are*, follows and this is a song where Chesney tells us that when life gets hectic, you can go down to the islands and just be who you really are.

Guitars and Tiki Bars is by far one of the most entertaining songs on the album, with a fun beat and very catchy lyrics. Chesney uses this song to tell us that he uses the islands as a way to escape life when it gets complicated.

Many songs on this CD share a similar theme of Chesney, using island life as a way to relieve stress when life gets hectic. All these songs are clearly written from the experiences in Chesney's life.

There are some songs, however, where Chesney clearly opens up to tell about parts of his life that few ever knew about before. These songs indicate that Chesney has found his true persona in the Caribbean.

One such song is the hauntingly seductive *There's Something Sexy about the Rain*. This number tells of a short love affair Chesney shared that has forever affected his life. The vocals in this song are some of the best Chesney has ever recorded, showcasing a beautiful emotional pitch that fits the song.

Another highly personal song of Chesney's is the beautiful ode to the islands, *Magic*. This is a magical song, painting a perfect picture of how the islands can capture one's life forever.

One of the catchiest songs on this release is *Key Lime Pie*. This song is impossible not to sing. It is a funny song that instantly gets inside your head. It may take a few days to get it out of there.

Chesney has lately been compared to Jimmy Buffett for his island life. Buffett, however, sings about never ending parties. Chesney, on the other hand, uses the islands as a way to reflect and escape from life. The party tunes are still present, but it's the songs about life that sets Chesney in a league of his own, far away from Buffett.

Overall, if anyone is feeling the "winter blues" at this time of the year, Chesney's *Be as You Are* can transport you to a way of life where everything seems to be carefree. A life where stress can disappear, people can be who they want to be, and all your troubles can fade away. That's the power the islands can have on someone according to Chesney and that's the power of *Be as You Are*.

Poetry Corner

Sweat

I wrap my arms around you
Pull you closer
Our bodies move in time
My hips against your hips
Lick my lips
Sweat beads down your back
I gently stroke you
Pulse pounding
Dipping low
Bodies winding
Slow grinding
Constant motion
My head on your chest
I'm trying desperately
To keep up with your rhythm
Slick skin sticking
Fingers gripping
Press me up against the wall
Lift my hands above my head
Your body sways
I swelter
Swallow your heat
Salty sweet
Drowning in desire
Body aches exhaust sets in
It's no use trying to fight
This is just the first time
And you can go all night

- A.M.N. -

A.M.N. reports that her poem is on the subject of dancing.

Reven's Quest

The most fearsome curse,
The darkest gift,
Which is it to you?

The safest mode
To drag through existence;
This I promise is true.

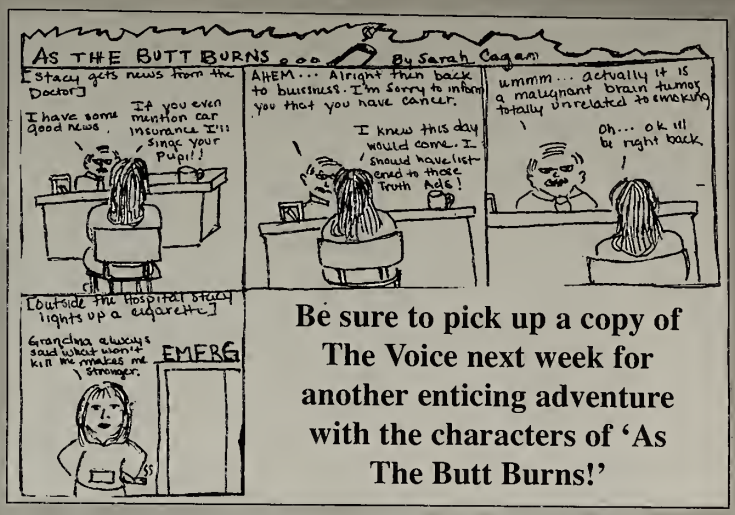
First your blood
And then your soul.
Your life begins anew.

See all these people
They are puppets
Through which we must choose

The thirst begins
The hunger wins
And you don't have a clue.

Death is real,
It comes for all
And now your quest is true.

- Reven Neswyn -



Be sure to pick up a copy of The Voice next week for another enticing adventure with the characters of 'As The Butt Burns!'

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New Shows Announced!

Saturday, March 5th
Ryan Cabrera, Bonnie McKee
7 p.m., $22.50 adv

Friday, March 18th (Underground)
Ari Hest
7 p.m., $10 adv

Sunday, March 27th
Jani Lane of Warrant
6 p.m , $13 adv

Thursday, April 7th
The Wailers
$16 adv

Wednesday, May 4th
Alkaline Trio

Saturday, May 7th
The Breakfast

Friday, May 20th
Midtown, Action Action, Plain White T's, Gatsbys American Dream
7 p.m., $10 adv

Abercrombie & Fitch Ruehls the fashion industry

COURTNEY LOFTUS
VOICE REPORTER

On a Friday evening in early December, a woman in her early twenties slowly paces in front of a row of brick apartments. With black, wrought iron fencing, cement steps, and windows with flower boxes, the building closely resembles a Greenwich Village townhouse. Dressed in a stylish black t-shirt and black apron, the young woman, who is about 5'2", stops in front of the doorway numbered 925. When asked about the apron, she smiles, revealing sparkling white teeth. She points toward a display of small aluminum buckets holding an assortment of plants and white flowers including tulips, orchids, hydrangeas and eucalyptus. "I'm the flower girl," she says happily.

Although the idea of someone selling flowers on the streets of New York City is not unrealistic, the self-proclaimed "flower girl" is not really standing on a sidewalk selling flowers—she is working in a mall in Paramus, New Jersey. The brick facade behind her is the storefront of Ruehl, the latest concept launched by the renowned Abercrombie & Fitch.

The Ruehl employee, referred to by the company as a store model, explains that the flowers for sale are meant to give the store an authentic New York City feel. "They also serve as incentive," she says, "because if someone wants to buy any, they have to actually go into the store to pay." She goes on to explain that the plants and flowers are shipped weekly to Ruehl from places such as Holland and New Zealand where they are in bloom.

Eighteen-year-old Juliet Lash remembers the first time she saw Ruehl. "I didn't know what it was at first," she says, "because it doesn't have a sign and it looks so much different than any other store." Juliet is a freshman at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and an employee at Hollister Co., Abercrombie & Fitch's four-year-old California-inspired concept store.

Because of its unconventional appearance, passers-by are intrigued when they find out that Ruehl is actually a clothing store. "Most people who walk by have no idea what it is," the Ruehl flower girl says, "and they'll ask 'Is this a restaurant?' or 'Is this a club?'" Abercrombie & Fitch first applied this method of disguising stores with its launch of Hollister Co., which is modeled after a West Coast surf shack.

Ruehl was introduced to the public during the first week of September with stores in Tampa and Chicago in addition to the store in New Jersey, and in January, a fourth store was opened in Michigan. The layout, as well as the merchandise, are New York-inspired and target 22 to 30-year-olds, a demographic that has previously been overlooked by the company. Ruehl, which is said to be competitive with stores such as Banana Republic and J Crew, has prices that are generally twenty percent higher than those of Abercrombie & Fitch. With such successful sales among its younger markets through Abercrombie, Hollister and abercrombie, the kids' store, why would this leading retailer want to expand its focus to such a dramatically different age group?

Juliet, who is studying fashion merchandising management at FIT, tries to visit Ruehl whenever she has time off from school and from her job at Hollister Co. in West Nyack, N.Y. As the impact team leader at Hollister Co., Juliet manages a team of employees responsible for checking shipment, updating the merchandise displays weekly, and making sure the sales floor is always full. About shopping at Ruehl she says, "It's a fun experience and the atmosphere is great!"

Ruehl traces its origin to a fictitious story about a German family who immigrated to New York City in the late 1800s, where they produced and sold fine leather goods from their Greenwich Village townhouse. The grandson of the Ruehl family, who was heavily influenced by actor James Dean, later convinced his family to specialize in denim. A creative team at Abercrombie & Fitch used this story to design the layout of the store. The result is approximately 8,500 square feet of selling space designed to look and feel like an urban studio apartment—with 11 different rooms, including a library, a bedroom and a living room.

Upon entering Ruehl, a customer might be struck, first, by the subdued lighting and seductive jazz playing at a volume much lower that that of the techno at Abercrombie or the alternative punk heard at Hollister. The dark, hardwood floors and the leather couches and chairs create a warm and comfortable environment. Customers are welcome to sit and relax and even to flip through the pages of vintage books such as *Catcher in the Rye* which line the shelves in each room. The fitting room area is equipped with a real bed and, in what would be considered the mudroom, is a fireplace with a real, burning fire. Running through the center of the complex network of rooms is a long hallway with framed poster-size photographs hinged to the floor, leaning up against the walls for customers to view. Red exit signs hang throughout Ruehl to assist confused shoppers.

According to 59-year old president and CEO Michael Jeffries, Ruehl "is the fantasy of what it's like to graduate from college and go to New York and make it. It's the New York fantasy." In addition to targeting those individuals who may be entering the work force for the first time, the merchandise is also meant to appeal to those customers who may have simply outgrown the preppie style of Abercrombie & Fitch.

> **"Advertising would probably help, but that's just not how they do things. Word will spread It's too interesting of a concept to just die out."**
>
> **Juliet Lash**

Employees, who are much more helpful than the brand reps at Abercrombie and Hollister, look as if they, too, are graduates of Abercrombie & Fitch, and many bear a resemblance to the sexy catalogue models. Juliet agrees that Ruehl employees provide more customer service than those at the other stores. "They're also less intimidating," she says, "because when you walk into an Abercrombie you might get patronizing stares from brand reps—but not at Ruehl."

Although denim is said to be the store's specialty item, merchandise also includes casual sportswear, cashmere sweaters, intimate apparel and outerwear such as leather jackets. In addition to clothing, Ruehl also sells books and magazines, fragrances for men and women that come in 3.4 oz. bottles shaped like old-fashioned ink flasks, and handbags, the most expensive costing upwards of $800. Although Ruehl is seen as more upscale and classy than Abercrombie, Jeffries asserts that "the business is 100% casual."

Juliet, who lives in an apartment in Brooklyn, is familiar with New York City culture and fashion and thinks that the clothes and the set-up of Ruehl are a lot like the stores in the city. About the clothing she says, "It's all very comfortable and since it's so new, it's actually somewhat exclusive, unlike Abercrombie." She explains that the quality of the clothes is better than that of its parent store and that this will help Ruehl appeal to its intended market.

Juliet thinks that the company is making a mistake, though, with this year's introduction of a new upscale line at Abercrombie known as Ezra Fitch. She says that although Abercrombie has recently had lackluster sales, "It shouldn't be raising prices or acting so luxury because it might be infringing on Ruehl's customer base."

Ryan D'Agostino, 23, a longtime customer of Abercrombie & Fitch and former assistant manager of Hollister, says that the merchandise at Ruehl "gets lost between trying to be hip and cool and trying to be older and mature." He says that the clothes are not something he would wear to work but rather to a club in the city. "Why pay old and mature prices," he asks, "for hip and cool clothes?"

Abercrombie & Fitch operates more than 760 stores between Abercrombie, Hollister Co. and the parent store. Whereas Hollister Co., currently the company's strongest vehicle, is expected to grow to be a 600- to 800-unit chain, Jeffries anticipates that the Ruehl chain could expand to more than 200 stores. At least five additional Ruehls are expected to open in 2005 with locations in Columbus, O.H., Garden City, N.Y., and elsewhere.

According to The Columbus Dispatch, "Analysts say Ruehl has several things going for it, including less competition and a target customer...with more disposable income." While this may be true, the greater part of Ruehl's market has, thus far, been untouched. Juliet explains that right now, "the only people who really know anything about Ruehl are people who work for the company." Because the company does not do any advertising, it will need to rely on positive word-of-mouth promotion in order to attract more customers. Juliet acknowledges that word is slowly spreading, especially in places like FIT where fashion and retail are a top priority.

"Advertising would probably help, but that's just not how they do things," Juliet says, "Word will spread. It's too interesting of a concept to just die out."

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WSKB

Owls Fare Well At Alliance Indoor Track Finals

GORHAM, Me. – The Westfield State women's and men's indoor track and field teams finished third and fourth, respectively, in the New England Alliance championships held Feb. 12 at the University of Southern Maine.

"It was an outstanding meet to participate in," said Westfield State veteran track and field coach Sean O'Brien. "There were a lot of excellent times and distances from all the colleges. They (times and distances) were much better than last year."

Led by senior sensation Tessa Donoghue, the Westfield women compiled 82.5 points to trail Southern Maine (232) and Keene State (182) in the 10-team meet that consisted of colleges from the Mass. State and Little East Conferences.

Donoghue accounted for more than a half of the Owls' points. The Springfield Cathedral graduate won the 400 (1:00.32), long jump (18-0), and triple jump (36-7 1/2), and placed second in the high jump (5-2) and third in the 200 (26.93).

Junior Heather Wenninger of Chicopee placed third in the 3000 meter run (11:35.56) and seventh in the 1500. Junior Marissa Blume (Westwood) finished fifth in the 1500 and seventh in the 1000.

In the highly competitive men's meet, Southern Maine won the title with 109 points, followed closely by Keene State (103), Eastern Connecticut (89.5), Westfield (86), and Worcester State (82).

Winning individual championships for the Owls were junior David Richardson (Beverly) with an outstanding effort of 6-8 in the high jump; junior Shawn McCorquodale (Athol) in the long jump (21-11), and senior Peter King (Athol) in the shot put (51-1 1/2).

McCorquodale also placed second in the triple jump (43-1 3/4). Freshman Matt Shannon (Wilbraham) finished fourth in the long jump (21-1 1/2) and fifth in the high jump (6-2). Senior Stan Pa'u (Ayer) placed fourth in the shot put and fifth in the 20-pound weight throw, while junior Eric Kelly (Reading) was eighth in both the 200 dash and 55 hurdles.

Freshmen twin brothers Andy and John Messer (Westfield High School) placed seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 1000 meter run.

Senior Heather Nelson competes in the butterfly event during Westfield State's final home meet on Feb. 8. Nelson is one of 14 Wesfield State swimmers who qualified for the New England championships, which were held Feb. 18-20 at Bentley College. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Men's Basketball Rallies To Defeat Fitchburg

FITCHBURG – Westfield State rallied from a 12-point second-half deficit to edge Fitchburg State, 69-66.

The Owls improved to 11-10 overall and 6-4 in the Mass. State Conference with the comeback victory. Fitchburg fell to 5-17 and 2-7.

The Owls again struggled on the road, and took their first lead, 28-27, on a lay-in by James Ogbunze (Springfield) with 3:37 remaining in the first half. But Fitchburg outscored Westfield, 8-0, the remainder of the half to take a 35-28 advantage at the intermission.

Westfield made another run early in the second half, closing to within two points, 39-37, on a 3-point basket by freshman guard Tony Collie (Colchester, VT). But powered by the inside play of senior forward Rashad Cope (Roxbury), Fitchburg took its biggest lead, 53-41, on a Cope layup with 10:28 remaining.

The Falcons held a 59-50 lead with 6:47 remaining when the Owls exploded for a 16-0 scoring spree over the next three and a half minutes to take a 66-59 lead.

Sophomore guard Gavin Illangakoon's (Ellington, CT) 3-point bucket tied the score at 59-all with 4:30 remaining. A Collier layup gave Westfield a 61-59 lead, which was followed by another 3-pointer by Illangakoon and a layup by sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin.

Fitchburg then went on a 7-0 run to tie the score, capped by a lay-in by Cope with 43 seconds left.

Westfield's game-winning shot was a tip-in by Ogboin with 20 seconds remaining. Freshman guard Steve Martins (Westfield), who missed the driving layup that Ogboin tipped in, made 1 of 2 free throws with seven seconds remaining. Fitchburg's Jim Prignano's 3-point attempt near the top of the key at the buzzer was just off the mark and Westfield escaped with its third road victory of the season.

Cope poured in 27 points, one shy of his career high; however, he was held to just two points in the final 7:49. Cope was 13 for 18 from the field and grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Collier led Westfield's balanced scoring with 14 points, followed by Ogbunize (13), Ogboin (12) and Vaso Jaukovic (11). Jaukovic, a graduate student, now has 985 career points.

Freshman guard Betty Dely of Waltham has played well for the women's basketball team this year. Dely canned a clutch 3-point basket to lead the Owls to a 60-51 victory over Albertus Magnus. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Freshmen Lead Owls

WESTFIELD – Freshman guards Betty Dely of Waltham (11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 blocks, 4 steals) and Melissa Macchi of Peabody (16 points, 5 assists) led Westfield State to a 60-51 victory over Albertus Magnus in a non-conference women's basketball game on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Westfield is 9-12 with two games remaining in the season; Albertus is 10-12.

The Owls had to withstand a second-half comeback by the New Haven college. Westfield led 33-29 at halftime and by 14 points, 51-37, with 8:12. Albertus, which only shot 22 percent from the field in the second half, then went on a 14-2 run to close to within two points, 53-51, with 2:10 remaining.

Westfield then got a game-clinching bucket from Dely, who calmly drilled a 3-pointer from the top of the key – three feet beyond the arc – with 54.3 seconds left. The Owls made four free throws in the closing seconds.

Westfield's other top performer was junior guard Meghan McCarthy (Belchertown) with 11 points, seven assists and five steals. Westfield leading scorer and rebounder Amanda Chapin (Westfield) did not play after sustaining an ankle injury late in the first half; she finished with six points and six rebounds.

The Owls received a big boost off the bench from junior Natalia Araszkiewicz (Framingham), who had a team-high 13 rebounds, and freshman center Rebeka Lent (Belchertown) with seven points and five boards.

Senior guard Tara Cruz (Wallingford, CT) had 16 points and five assists for Albertus Magnus. Senior forward Natalia Perlaza (West Haven, CT) totaled 12 points, 18 rebounds and five assists.

Donoghue Dominates Women's Meet

New England Alliance Indoor Track and Field Championships At University of Southern Maine, Feb. 12, 2005

WOMEN'S STANDINGS: Southern Maine 232; Keene State 182; WESTFIELD STATE 82.5; Rhode Island College 68; Worcester State 42.5; Eastern Connecticut State 32; Fitchburg State 17; UMass Dartmouth 15; Bridgewater State 13; Salem State 10.

FIRST PLACE: Tessa Donoghue, 400, 1:00.32; Tessa Donoghue, long jump, 18-0; Tessa Donoghue, triple jump, 17-6 1/2.

SECOND: Tessa Donoghue, high jump, 5-2.

THIRD: Tessa Donoghue, 200, 26.93; Heather Wenninger, 3000, 11:35.56.

FOURTH: 4 x 200 Relay, 1:54.19; 4 x 800 Relay, 11:14.02.

FIFTH: Marissa Blume, 1500, 5:21.40; Jen Howard, high jump, 5-0.

SIXTH: Lindsey Nowlan, 1000, 3:26.42; Jess Ekness, 55 Hurdles, 9.61; 4 x 400 Relay, 4:46.21.

SEVENTH: Marissa Blume, 1000, 3:26.55; Heather Wenninger, 1500, 5:29.53; Kristin Bodner, 3000, 11:57.96.

McCorquodale Richardson, King Claim First Places

New England Alliance Indoor Trackand Field Championhsips At University of Southern Maine, Feb. 12, 2005

MEN'S STANDINGS: Souther Maine 109; Keene State 103; Eastern Connecticut State 89; WESTFIELD STATE 86; Worcester State 82; UMass Dartmouth 65; Rhode Island College 52; Fitchburg State 34; Bridgewater State 24.5; Salem State 17.

FIRST PLACE: David Richardson, high jump, 6-8; Shawn McCorquodale, long jump, 21-11; Peter King, shot put, 51-1 1/2.

THIRD: Shawn McCorquodale, triple jump, 43-1 3/4.

FOURTH: 4 x 800 Relay, 8:43.64; Matt Shannon, long jump, 21-1 1/2; Stan Pa'u, shot put, 43-3 1/2.

FIFTH: Nate Cristofori, 600, 1:26.65; Matt Shannon, high jump, 6-2; Matt Dissell, shot put, 42-9 1/4; Stan Pa'u, weight throw, 43-3.

SIXTH: Zak Bitzer, 400, 52.62; 4 x 400 Relay, 3:34 11; Dave Bergeron, triple jump, 41-4 1/2.

SEVENTH: Erik Peterson, 800, 2:11.95; Andy Messer, 1000, 2:41.63; Sean Marino, high jump, 6-0; Chris Flynn, triple jump, 41-3/4.

EIGHTH: Eric Kelly, 200, 23.74; Robbie Crossman, 400, 53.03; John Messer, 1000, 2:46.24; Eric Kelly, 55 Hurdles, 9.87.

Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:
-Men & Women's Dodgeball
-Men & Women's 5-5

BENTLEY BILLIARDS (Downtown) & THE WSC INTRAMURALS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

THE WSC BILLIARDS LEAGUE

Beginning February 23rd for eight straight Wednesdays (excluding spring break week)
Practice begins at 6p.m.
League play begins at 7p.m.

4-8 people per team
Co-Ed teams

There's a free shuttle from the Woodward Center to Bentley Billiards and back. Pick-up time is at 6p.m.

THINK SPRING!

Start organizing your spring teams now:

Upcoming Events:	Rosters Due:
Floor Hockey (M+W)	March 2
Sport Trivia (M+W)	March 23
Softball (M+W)	March 23
Co-Ed Softball	March 23
Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	March 28
Ultimate Frisbee (M+W)	March 28
Home Run Derby (M+W)	April 27

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!

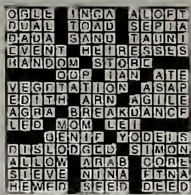
Monday, Nov. 11, 1996

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

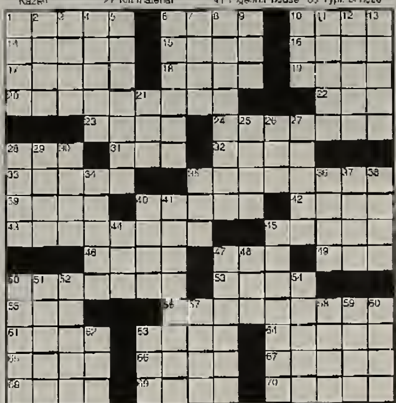
ACROSS
1 Feed (the fire)
6 Stuff
10 Hindu teacher
14 Large showy flower
15 Beneficiary
16 Cousin of PDQ
17 Liam Neeson or Keanu Reeves
18 Rowers' tools
19 Falls behind
20 Delectable
22 "Oosh!"
23 Tree juices
24 Soggiest
28 Pea container
31 Author Bradbury
32 Mil. truant
33 Vote in
35 League
39 Jai —
40 Hims
42 Statue of a god
43 Animal with a pouch
45 Sixth president
46 Tel —
47 — Cartwright of "Ponderosa"
49 Green parrot
50 Clasp
53 Oodles
55 Bottle
56 San Francisco district
61 Film director Kazan
63 Rhyme maker
64 Unbilled role, perhaps
65 Bandage for a broken arm
66 Idaho neighbor
67 Singer Gita
68 Little kid
69 Filmdom's Richard —
70 Depressions

DOWN
1 Command to kitty
2 Mexican sandwich
3 Latch — acquire
4 String fastenings
5 Aviator Amelia —
6 Picky
7 Paper measure
8 Wire-haired terrier
9 "— Doubtfire"
10 Four qts
11 Citation
12 Feds
13 Capsize
21 Hot spring
25 Leather working tools
26 Ms. to Miss Piggy
27 Kilt material
28 Summit
29 Earthenware pot
30 College hazelnut
34 Tobacco product
35 Long, long —
36 Slovak's neighbor
37 "— and get it!"
38 Actress Lanchester
40 Commentator Sevareid
41 Pigeons' house
44 Ol' Blue-Eyes' ex
45 Tummy soother
47 Merry
48 Very long time
50 Throw out
51 — Peninsula
52 Lively
54 Gaze
57 Receive news
58 A bird of it
59 Left
60 Negative votes
62 Dined
63 Type of rose

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



11-11-96 © 1996, United Feature Syndicate



STUMPED? Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones • 95¢ per minute 1-900-454-3535 ext. code 500

Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy

"It's easy to sit there and say you'd like to have more money. And I guess that's what I like about it. It's easy. Just sitting there, rocking back and forth, wanting that money."

"Instead of a trap door, what about a trap window? The guy looks out it, and if he leans too far, he falls out. Wait. I guess that's like a regular window."

"One thing vampire children have to be taught early on is, don't run with wooden stakes."

"Consider the daffodil. And while you're doing that, I'll be over here, looking through your stuff."

"Sometimes you have to be careful when selecting a new name for yourself. For instance, let's say you have chosen the nickname "Fly Head." Normally you would think that "Fly Head" would mean a person who has beautiful swept back features, as if flying through the air. But think again. Couldn't it also mean, "having a head like a fly"? I'm afraid some people might actually think that."

"I hope some animal never bores a hole in my head and lays its eggs in my brain, because later you might think you're having a good idea but it's just eggs hatching."

"You know what would make a good story? Something about a clown who makes people happy, but inside he's real sad. Also, he has severe diarrhea."

"If you ever fall off the Sears Tower, just go real limp, because maybe you'll look like a dummy and people will try to catch you because, hey, free dummy."

"If a kid asks where rain comes from, I think a cute thing to tell him is 'God is crying.' And if he asks why God is crying, another cute thing to tell him is 'Probably because of something you did.'"

"Contrary to what most people say, the most dangerous animal in the world is not the lion or the tiger or even the elephant. It's a shark riding on an elephant's back, just trampling and eating everything they see."

Do you have some deep thoughts of your own that you'd like to share with the campus community? We would LOVE to hear them! Send all of your deep thoughts to us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com!

PS-This is not a joke...we really want your thoughts.

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY!!

Searching for love? Companionship? Friendship? The Voice is here to help! Drop all personals in our box in the Ely Main Lounge and we'll publish them in the paper. Who knows, you could meet that special person you've been searching for all your life...

February is Black History Month!

Be sure to pick up a speaker and event schedule in the Ely Main Lounge!

Mon 2/21	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML
Tue 2/22	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm An Evening of Poetry - 7pm - SBH
Wed 2/23	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Jazz Singer Montenia - 7pm - EML Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p Duck Pluck - 5pm - Ely Pool CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm
Thurs 2/24	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm
Fri 2/25	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p
Sat 2/26	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight
Sun 2/27	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Westfield State's own American Idol
pg. 1

A barrage of Letters to the Editor
pg. 7

Think you have relation problems?
pg. 1

Sidewalk spray causes stink on campus
pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | February 28, 2005 | Issue XVIII

Poet performs in packed living room

File photo

Pulitzer Prize winning poet Galeway Kinnell was at Westfield State College this past Tuesday to perform. He also fielded questions from the audience. Professors Emily Todd and Stephen Sossaman introduced Kinnell.

By Mike Forest
Voice Reporter

SCANLON-Galway Kinnell, renowned poet and Providence, Rhode Island native, entertained a standing-room-only crowd by reading and talking about some of his poetry Tuesday night in Scanlon's living room as part of the Westfield State College Guest Lecture Series.

Kinnell, who has published eight books of poetry and several translations since 1960, including his 1982 Selected Poems, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, took the podium after eloquent introductions by Professors Emily Todd and Stephen Sossaman of the English department. He made some sound and lighting adjustments, cleared his throat and proceeded to captivate the over-capacity room.

Kinnell read a diverse selection of poems from his books, beginning with "Saint Francis and the Sow" from his 1980 book Mortal Acts, Mortal Words. The poem illustrates the beauty that he sees in every aspect of nature, even in pigs, which generally aren't seen as beautiful.

Next, he read "Wait" from the same book, which he wrote about someone considering suicide. His advice to the person is to wait for a time when personal events will become interesting again."

Other poems he read included "The Road between Here and There," about his frequent travels between Sheffield and Montpelier, Vermont, "After Making Love We Hear Footsteps," about a child's propensity to be woken by the sounds of love-making, and "The Bear," about a primitive bear-hunting method that Arctic dwellers once used.

Midway through his read-

Kinnell- Page 3

Shuttle service proves costly

By Mike Sullivan
Special to the Voice

WESTFIELD- There's nothing like a free ride.

That's the feeling a Westfield State College student experiences every time he or she steps on the van shuttle or PVTA bus to get from point A to point B on campus. But, does a college student really think about the yearly costs of operating these services?

Probably not.

The Department of Public Safety at WSC has been able to safely run the shuttle transportation service without any major disruptions throughout the years of its existence, which dates back well over a decade.

"It's a system that runs pretty well," Tony Casciano said, Captain of the Public Safety Department at WSC. "We haven't had any major problems with it yet."

Each year, WSC will spend at least $65,500, not including the initial price of the vans, or gas and repairs, to keep the shuttle service available to its students.

On weekdays, the shuttle operates 18 hours a day. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority buses make runs around the campus.

The Department of Public Safety has a contract with PVTA (the Owl Shuttle), which costs $45,000 a year to keep the transportation service running on campus. There is also a PVTA bus that provides transportation for students into Springfield and back. That contract is $400 a year.

The 15 passenger vans, which are also handicapped accessible, tackle the routes from 3 p.m. and run until 2 a.m. The weekend hours of service are 5 p.m. until 2 a.m., with Sunday being the busiest day because of students returning to campus after spending the weekend at home, according to Casciano.

WSC currently owns three vans which cost $38,000 each. Usually only one is active. When the campus is busy, mostly on Thursdays and Sundays, two vans will be running.

The student drivers of the vans, who are paid $7.50 an hour, have instant communication with a dispatcher in case of an emergency. Each driver takes on a two hour shift and then turns the duty over to a fellow employee.

The student security unit,

Shuttle- Page 2

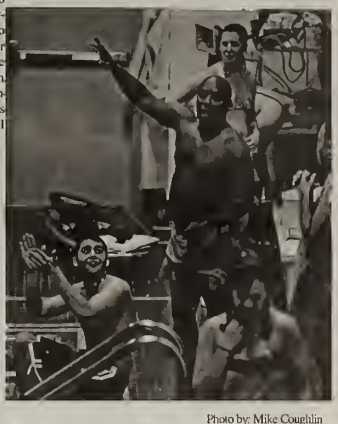

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Arthur Jackson hails the crowd after emerging from the Duck Pluck this past Wednesday.

Goodridge talks turkeywith SGA

By Matthew Bernat & Katelyn Kennedy
Voice Staff

ELY-Director of Residential Life Jon Conlogue will be presenting an in-depth presentation of the new residence hall at the Student Government Association's (SGA) March 1 meeting alongside the new building's architect to answer any questions and "squash any rumors" of the hall, announced President of the SGA Matthew Curren at SGA's Tuesday, February 22 meeting.

Curren said the entire student body is invited to come down to the basement of Ely to watch the presentation.

Addressing the SGA this week was the Director of Westfield State College's (WSC) Dining Commons, Craig Goodridge.

SGA- Page 2

Don't let just the cool kids be nominated

By Nicole LeBlanc
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College students are faced with the opportunity to receive an award through the Blue Key Nominations for recognition of their achievements and dedications to the college community.

Unlike other academic awards offered to students on campus this award is designed to recognize what students do outside of the classrooms. The award states exactly, "This award is the highest honor given at Westfield State College by the Student Government Association."

"As students, I think everyone knows who goes above and beyond and that's really

Blue Key- Page 3

Cry over that girl who dumped you after you read our review of the very emo Starting Line

pg. 12

What quote do you live by?

This week's V.O.

pg. 4

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Shuttle

which is the group of students hired by the Department of Public Safety, is responsible for completing the outlined route every 15-20 minutes (subject to change due to weather). The shuttle route begins in South Lot and makes three more stops, one at Scanlon Hall, then the Woodward Center, and finally at 333 Western Avenue, where administrative offices and the department of criminal justice are located.

The whole concept of it (shuttle service) is so people don't have to walk. If they have to walk alone, the shuttle service is available for them," Casciano said. "It's a safety security shuttle."

Any member of the WSC community can use the shuttle at any time of day.

It's open to faculty, staff, students, and visitors. Mostly anyone can use it. It's not like we check an I.D. unless we see someone who looks suspicious," Casciano said.

Mike Jurkowski, a junior at WSC, and frequent user of the shuttle service, was astonished when he realized that I.D.'s were not checked on the vans.

"I'm used to hopping right on the vans without flashing my I.D. But it's not a bad idea," Jurkowski said. "(The Department of) Public Safety runs it right? You'd figure it would be a requirement to show them."

Blue Key

Nomination Papers

Are now available all over campus.

Nominate someone who you think needs it badly.

SGA

Goodridge came to WSC this past October and is responsible for many of the changes to the Dining Commons that have taken place over these past months. He said he has been in the college dining industry for 26 years, has worked at Syracuse University, Bentley, and the University of North Colorado among others.

In addition to asking about a few of the changes, Goodridge was asked if a convenience store would be put into the new building now that the old nest is gone in place of what will soon be the Jazzman's Café.

Goodridge answered he wasn't sure but the matter was being looked into. Until then the sundry items students may be looking for can be found in the bookstore said Goodridge.

Goodridge also announced a turkey tasting event to take place in the DC on March 8 at 3:45 p.m. The turkey that wins the taste contest will be put out on the deli cart, Goodridge said all students are welcome.

Sophomore class President Matt Madden announced a campus wide game of assassins. Sign-ups are to be held in the DC and participation is free. "It's going to be extreme," said Madden, "It's going to be glorious, legendary," Madden added.

In years past the dorms have sponsored the "Assassins" game. In the game you get the name of another student and must tag him/her to eliminate them. Details such as "safe zones" and "safety objects" are to be worked out.

The Campus Activities Board has a preliminary food plan picked out for Spring Weekend said Julie Swartout, Vice President of Student Programming. Swartout also announced that the coffeehouse that was planned for March 2 will be moved to March 9 and replaced with a Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory night. A chocolate fountain has been rented by the school for students to use as the movie Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory plays in the Ely Main Lounge from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The chocolate fountain will be available from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Senate Banquet tickets are on sale starting March 1, said Eddie Paris. The tickets cost $32 for students and $16 for Senators. Tables are seated in groups of 12.

Also announced: Jackson Katz, who is one of the country's leading male activists against gender violence, will speak on March 21 at 1 p.m. in the Scanlon Banquet Hall about how men can help stop violence against women.

Another service available to women this month will be the on-campus gynecological exams beginning on March 22. Thanks to The Department of Health Services and Noble hospital, the exams will be available on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

There will also be WSC's annual health fair on Wednesday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ely Main lounge.

There will be a cholesterol test and Menomune immunizations available for all students both at different fees. The Menomune immunization, which will cost $90.00, is required for all incoming students starting in the fall semester of this year and the vaccine lasts for three to five years.

Brown Bag Bingo will be held on March 4 at 11 p.m. in Ely Main Lounge sponsored by the Class of 2008. Prizes will represent the upcoming holiday, St. Patrick's Day which is on March 17.

Shawn gets the shaft

From the Editor's Desk

Life isn't so awesome for Shawn Lehair. For personal reasons Shawn hasn't been able to make it to a few SGA meetings and has been removed from his position on Senate.

This would have been Shawn's fourth year on SGA but the Student Government has a policy that removes anyone who has a specified number of absences.

It's a good policy; it keeps riff-raff like A&E editor Pete Norwood from mixing with the more respectable members of SGA. You see Pete was a recent victim of the rule.

Unlike Pete, Shawn decided to fight his removal and following SGA's reinstatement policy he appeared before SGA this past Tuesday. Shawn took the podium and began to field questions from various Senators.

As I sat in the back of the room watching Shawn answer to, "Why would you make your Doctor's appointments on Tuesday's?" (It's the only day that Shawn's medication doctor was available) "How many committee meetings did you attend?" and others, I thought, "Would this same thing be happening to Senator 'Suzie Cutie' if she found herself in the same position?"

No it wouldn't.

Shawn is different, he doesn't fit in at SGA, he doesn't dress how most members of SGA dress', he doesn't act the way most of them act but above all he doesn't mind questioning them once in awhile.

I've covered a few SGA meetings and whenever Shawn would get up to speak he didn't articulate his points as well as some but what he lacked in speaking skills he always made up for in his courage to disagree.

Had "Suzie Cutie", a senator who voted as she was told, been behind that podium I'm sure the questions would have been a little "softer". Maybe she would have gotten, "Are you O.K.? When are you coming back?" and the like.

Three and half years, goddamn that's a lot of Tuesday night meetings, I'd let him stay on just for sitting through all those hours of parliamentary procedure. But Shawn broke the rules and the Executive Council did what they had to, they shouldn't bend the rules, the fault here lies with the Senate, who could have voted to give Shawn a second chance. They didn't even let him see who voted against him, it was done by paper ballot, for shame SGA.

Most students who are kicked off SGA because of absence are done so because they don't want to be there, very rarely will someone come back and asked to be reinstated, the simple fact that Shawn took the time to go through all and his previous years on SGA is more than enough to show he wants to be down there. Not letting him back because he didn't always agree is not the kind of show the Senate should be running.

Matthew Bernat
Editor in Chief
thecampusvoice@wsc.ma.edu

-Photo by Mike Coughlin

February 17 brought Gospel Night to Scanlon Banquet Hall. Gifted, Urbon Education Gospel Choir, Saint John's Choir and the Progressive Community Chapel Ensemble performed.

Health Fair
It's Great to be Alive in 2005!
March 2
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Ely Campus Center Lounge

Kinnell

ing, Kinnell took a wide variety of questions from the audience on subjects like his writing schedule, which he says has never been regular. "There were some times in my life where I wrote all day, and woke up in the middle of the night and wrote, and then wrote all day again. And then other times when I didn't write at all when I was absorbed in activities that didn't give me any time to write, and then various stages between that," he said.

Kinnell, noticing the tight quarters in the back of the room, invited people to sit on the floor in front of the podium, and many did. Despite the lack of adequate seating, the crowd remained attentive and cheerful.

When an audience member asked about the frequent use of frog and toad imagery in his poetry, Kinnell spoke of his admiration of how "these big, fat, heavy things can suddenly leap!"

One man asked Kinnell whether he had served in the Vietnam War because of his vivid description of it in "The Dead Shall Be Raised Incorruptible" from his 1971 book *The Book of Nightmares*. Kinnell replied that he had not, and described his inspiration for the poem by reading some of it and following it with an anecdote.

During the Vietnam War, he went around the country reading poetry against the war. He was eating at a diner after reading at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York with James Wright and Robert Bligh, also poets, and "in walked what looked like a kind of a bum."

He walked over to their table and asked, "You guys wanna fight?" Kinnell noted that his anti-war stance faced hostility because it had not yet become popular, even though "later on, everybody turned against that war."

Kinnell said Wright responded by saying, "Oh, we're not fighters, we're lovers. Sit down." The man did, and he told them a story that inspired Kinnell to write the second section of the seven-section poem, about an American tail gunner in Vietnam who shot indiscriminately at anyone wearing black on the ground, be they civilian ("friendlies") or Viet-Kong.

Finally, Kinnell answered a question about his motivation for writing "The Bear," in which he graphically describes the gruesome, primitive bear hunting method once used in Alaska. Kinnell provoked laughter from the audience when he said that he takes on a persona in the poem rather than drawing from personal experience, saying, "Sometimes people think I'm a bear killer, so I like to mention that." He added that he doesn't want to be referred to as "Bear Killer Kinnell."

After the question and answer session, Kinnell read a few more poems ending with "Insomnia," about the sleeplessness and intimate movements of two lovers in bed. Much of the crowd left after warmly applauding.

However, four of Kinnell's books were being sold by bookstore employee Gary Muddiman before and after the reading, and Kinnell stayed a while to sign the books of people who waited in line to meet him. Many people stayed.

Kinnell said he enjoyed the atmosphere and the audience, "I liked the room; there was good sound. I liked the people. I liked the fact that there was a lot of students here, but also a good sprinkling of older people."

While he enjoys reading to all types of people, he said, "The thing about reading to college students is that there's often a number of, you know, aspiring poets in the group…You don't find that in earlier ages. So, it gives a kind of intensity to the way some people who really love poetry listen to it."

When asked whether today's college-aged generation is getting enough poetry, Kinnell said, "Some people may not even ever have a poem assigned to them (to read). So, no. But, that's the way things seem to be going."

About the adequacy of language, Kinnell said there is always a way to say what he wants to say. "I feel if I were to search long enough, not really search for the word, but search for what I have to say about something, there will be a word, or a group of words that will get it pretty well," he said.

The reading was sponsored by the Guest Lecture Series Committee and endorsed by the English department. Many professors were in attendance, some helping the impressive turnout by giving extra credit to students who attended.

Kellen Drain performs at Gospel Night.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Buy your senior week packet before March 11th!

The total cost is $165 and includes:
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A night at City Limitz with a champagne toast
The Hu Ka Leu (X-rated hypnotist, food, ect.)
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Events are closed to the public and you can only get in with a packet.

MUST BE 21 + TO ATTEND!

Voice of the Week

John Felio

Role at WSC: Assistant Director of Residential Life.

Year at WSC: First year. Felio was at NYU for 6 years before coming to Westfield.

Favorite part about WSC: Helping students with their needs, setting up a process that's fair for rooms next year.

Favorite Movie: The Natural, Felio loves baseball movies.

Favorite T.V. show: Seinfeld.

Favorite song: Anything by Bruce Springsteen.

What did you want to be when you were little? A Fireman.

Who was your childhood hero? My Dad.

Favorite Ice Cream flavor? Vanilla.

Felio said he is very happy living in Westfield and the college community.

Voices Overheard compiled by: Bridget Gleason and Bill McDonald

blue key

what makes this award special. It is really important to let our peers know that we appreciate what they've done. Students have a lot of responsibilities and involvement on our campus, so nominating somebody who has succeeded in what they do, and somebody who a peer deems worthy of recognition is perfect for the award!" says Emily Ransom, secretary of SGA and chairperson of the committee. "I hope the nominations flood on, the more the merrier."

Nominations went out Tuesday Feb. 15 and will be accepted until March 8. They can be found in numerous places including the campus teller window, the Student Government Association office, and at the front desk of the residence halls. E-mails were also sent to inform faculty and staff explaining the event and the nomination forms.

SGA senate nominated senators in order to form a committee. The committee consists of two members from each class year. All members in the committee are voting members and include Timothy McDonald and Irene Marcinowski from the class of 2005, Alana Signor and Matthew Curren, class of 2006, Amanda Giroux and Tiffany Puliafaco, class of 2007 and Sarah Prentice and Patrick Logan, class of 2008.

Once nominations are in, the committee will decide which of the nominees receive's the special award through discussions and debates. In the instance of a nominated committee member, they will be asked to leave the room while their nomination is discussed.

All nominations submitted are confidential. Committee members are not allowed to discuss any information to the nominees. There is no set limit to the number of awards granted. The awards will be presented at a banquet in the spring.

Emily Ransom can be contacted to answer any questions involving the Blue Key Nominations by emailing SGAexc@yahoo.com or by calling extension 5429.

Voices Overheard

What quote do you live by?

Ben Butterfield
Class of 2007
Movement Science

"If you want to throw a skirt in and run on the outside lane, we'll see what times we run."

Tiffany Brown
Class of 2006
Psychology

"If you can't dazzle them with brillance, baffle them with bullshit."

Amy Cirrone
Class of 2006
Elementary Ed.

"Aim above morality. Be not simply good, be good for something"

-Thoreau

Sean Kavanagh
Class of 2008
History

"Heroes are remembered. Legends never die."

-"The Sandlot"

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone. Amy Cirrone is not ashamed to put herself in Voices Overheard, look, she's right there.

PERSONA

The Literary Magazine of Westfield State College

Call for Creative Writing Papers:
i.e. poetry, short stories,
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Also Accepting Submissions for Cover Art
No More than 15 Submissions per Person
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Two Copies of Your Work
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in the English Department Office
(Bates 103)
by March 4, 2005

Please contact Jessi Ulmer at Musique0615@hotmail.com
or Prof. Glen Brewster at gbrewster@wsc.ma.edu with any questions

Germany greets Bush with suspicion but less fury

By Jeffrey Fleishman
Los Angeles Times

BERLIN -- A cold wind blew through Andreas Luedecke's beard as he conceded that, although he had plenty of complaints about Washington, the outrage against President Bush had softened from the days when Germany tried to stop the Iraq war.

"Bush is an aggressor, and we must push him back or we're all doomed," said Luedecke, standing in a light snow in Alexanderplatz, not far from where the Berlin Wall once stood. "But people forget fast. Images that once stuck in our minds fade away. Bush doesn't stir up intense passion in most people anymore."

Bush's visit Wednesday to the city of Mainz in southern Germany provoked a range of emotions across the country. But the one most evident was a sense of resignation. Germans turned out by the hundreds of thousands to protest the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. They stewed in anger as the war was fought and were bewildered at Bush's re-election in November.

Now, they say, bitterness must give way to pragmatism, much as one navigates around an overbearing in-law.

"U.S. and the European businesses are intertwined," said Luedecke, an economist. "International concerns are forcing us to work together. Relations will improve because ultimately Germany and Washington have shared interests."

Talk of Bush is often imbued with suspicion. But compared with the mood of two years ago, German critics are less likely to compare him to Adolf Hitler.

"I hope Bush has recognized that he needs to cooperate with this 'Old' Europe," said Ralf Skutnik, a tram supervisor. "But I don't believe him. What can we do? People have contemplated that maybe Bush has learned something so, OK, he should get a chance to repair things."

"International concerns are forcing us to work together. Relations will improve because ultimately Germany and Washington have shared interests." - Andreas Luedecke

Tight security around the president's stop in Mainz, a medieval city on the Rhine River where he held talks with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, did little to endear Bush to residents there. Garbage bins were hauled away and 1,300 manhole covers were welded shut against potential bombers. The city was under what one newspaper called "house arrest," and people were advised not to peek out their windows at Bush's motorcade.

Police estimated that 6,000 protesters stood in the snow in Mainz, chanting slogans and waving signs that read, "Bush: Number I Terrorist" and "You can bomb the world into pieces but not into peace."

One prankster stuck tiny American flags in dog droppings around the city.

The Opel plant north of Mainz closed for the day and shifted production of 750 cars to Saturday rather than chance its workers being unable to travel through checkpoints. Hundreds of employees at other companies had to settle for a forced unpaid holiday if they couldn't make it to work. The mayor of neighboring Wiesbaden said he would bill the German government for economic losses resulting from the visit.

One businessman, delayed at the Frankfurt airport after more than 200 flights were interrupted and 86 were canceled because of Bush's arrival, asked the German media why the president and Schroeder couldn't "just pick up the phone or meet in Iceland."

Even after Bush's re-election, he remains unpopular in Germany, judging from public surveys. A recent poll conducted by the German Marshall Fund in Washington found that 3 percent of respondents very much approved of the president's policies and 59 percent very much disapproved.

Many Germans on Wednesday recalled a gentler, almost euphoric atmosphere in 1989 when Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush, came to Mainz at the end of the Cold War and called for a special bond between the two nations. That relationship has been tested over the past 16 years, and Germany, Europe's largest economy, has emerged as a more confident diplomatic player. The country is lobbying for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council and wields influence in major capitals, including Moscow and Beijing.

"The visit shows that Bush cannot force everything he wants through," said Carl Ordnung, a Methodist preacher. "Now both sides must really approach each other, and the U.S. needs to fit in with Europe instead of the other way around."

Tiger shot, killed near Reagan Library

By Amanda Covarrubias
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES -- An elusive tiger that prowled through Ventura County near the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library was killed Wednesday morning in Moorpark, but its origin remains a mystery.

The tiger, weighing between 400 to 600 pounds, was sighted walking behind the houses and through the ravines approximately 40 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Nearby is Miller Park, with well-used soccer fields.

According to Troy Swauger, a spokesman for the state Department of Fish and Game, the tiger was spotted about 6:30 a.m. walking through the yard of the Tucker family.

"It was old and tired-looking. It was walking along our fence and then went to our next-door neighbor's yard," Mary Tucker said.

"It was just a weird thing to see him in our backyard," husband Ken Tucker said.

Authorities were called and fired four shots at the big cat. It was not known how many hit the animal, Swauger said.

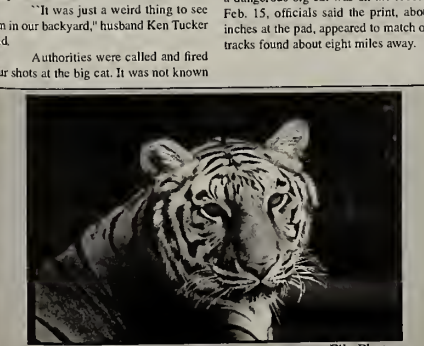
Some cities questioned why the tiger was killed and not tranquilized.

"With all this time to track it and all these options they could draw on, you have to ask the question, was it really necessary to kill the tiger?" asked Madeline Bernstein, president of the Los Angeles branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Swauger defended the shooting.

"If the cat got out of the area, there's no telling what could have happened," he said. "Using a tranquilizer gun was an option that was available, but the safety of residents and motorists was of great concern." Officials were investigating from where the tiger came, Swauger said. They will contact those having exotic pet permits in the area, but it is possible that the animal was illegal.

On Feb. 8, residents reported paw prints, setting off a series of warnings that a dangerous big cat was on the loose. By Feb. 15, officials said the print, about 6 inches at the pad, appeared to match other tracks found about eight miles away.



-File Photo

A tiger similar to the one pictured above was shot and killed in Los Angeles last week.

Consumer prices rise slightly as workers' real earnings decline

By Nell Henderson
Washington Post

WASHINGTON-Consumer prices rose modestly last month, but still faster than most workers' wages, the government reported Wednesday.

The Labor Department's consumer price index, one of the most widely followed inflation gauges, edged up 0.1 percent in January, reflecting higher prices for apparel, medical care and other goods and services.

After adjusting for inflation, average weekly earnings for most workers fell 0.2 percent in January from the month before, and dropped 0.7 percent from a year before, the department said. Inflation-adjusted, or "real," earnings have fallen in three of the last four months.

These figures reflect the wages of the nation's production or non-supervisory employees on private, non-farm payrolls, who account for about 80 percent of the work force. They earned an average $535.16 a week in January, after adjusting for seasonal variation.

Some analysts worry that slipping real wages may force consumers to pull back on spending, particularly as interest rates keep rising. Because consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of economic activity, any newfound restraint might slow the economy's overall growth rate.

"This continuing loss of purchasing power together with record low savings rates will constrain growth in the months ahead," wrote Charles McMillion, president and chief economist of MBG Information Services, in an analysis of the figures.

But other economists, including many at the Federal Reserve, think faster income gains for the rest of the work force, combined with a strengthening labor market, will help fuel strong increases in consumer spending and overall healthy economic growth this year.

"I believe that on its present course, our economy should continue to grow at a solid rate, that employment should strengthen and that inflation should remain under control," Jack Guynn, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, said in a speech Wednesday.

Guynn and other Fed officials have indicated repeatedly that they plan to keep inflation contained by continuing to raise the central bank's benchmark short-term interest rate in small steps in the months ahead.

At 2.5 percent, the benchmark rate is still spurring economic growth, Guynn said, adding that the Fed "still has a ways to go" in raising it.

Fed officials agreed at their meeting earlier this month that they would be closely studying current economic developments to decide how far and how fast to lift the rate, according to minutes released Wednesday of the two-day gathering.

In particular, they agreed to keep a close eye on labor costs and profit margins for signs of inflation pressures, according to the minutes, which summarize the discussion without identifying speakers by name.

Labor costs per unit of output have risen in recent months after falling for much of the last three years. But some Fed officials observed that "the flat pattern of growth in wages and compensation suggested an absence of (inflation) pressures in labor markets."

The Fed staff also forecasts that higher labor costs would be offset by lower energy and import prices this year.

The CPI rose 3 percent in the 12 months ended in January, largely reflecting the 10.6 percent jump in energy prices during that time as well as the 2.9 percent increase in food prices.

But after excluding food and energy costs, the so-called core-CPI rose a more benign 2.3 percent in the last year and has slowed to a 2 percent compound annual rate in the past three months.

"By most measures, overall inflation today continues to be within the range I find consistent with the definition of price stability," Guynn said.

Japanese anime's clashing Titans

BY BRUCE WALLACE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TOKYO – Optimistic old guy, that Hayao Miyazaki.

Japan's most famous animator is forever dropping his characters into a world of hurt, a place where potions turn girls into crones and mothers betray their daughters, where war blackens the landscape and cynical adults "forget they ever knew how to cry." Yet by the time he gets to the credits, Miyazaki always finds a way to leave his heroes and his audience caressed by hope.

The 64-year-old director has done it again with "Howl's Moving Castle," which has been pulling in Japanese audiences at a blockbuster pace since its release in late November (an American release is planned for this summer). "Howl's" is Miyazaki's first movie since "Spirited Away," the Academy Award-winning feature that debuted in the United States in 2002, and once again he has created a film that offers his antidote to a spiritually ailing world.

It's love, actually. And as usual, precocious children blaze the path to salvation.

"Howl's Moving Castle" presents another installment of Miyazaki's feel-good storytelling, which long ago garnered him comparisons to Walt Disney. Japanese audiences clearly cannot get enough. "Howl's" has been a rocket at the box office, selling 1.1 million tickets in its first two days and more than 13 million in all. .

But Miyazaki's latest success comes at a testing time for Japanese anime, an art form he has done so much to drag from the artistic ghetto into the mainstream. While the rest of the world fetes anime's global cool, some in Japan are wondering if it has peaked creatively.

"Animation studios are surviving, animators are getting better paid, but the quality of new works is not improving," says Mamoru Oshii, a director whose reputation was made on anime's darker side, in chaotic worlds where the apocalypse seems never more than a rogue computer away.

"On the surface, it's thriving," the 53-year-old Oshii said at his Tokyo studio. "But in reality, there's very little new happening." Oshii's anime is edgier – more violent, really – than Miyazaki's family fare. He happily plays Tarantino to Miyazaki's Disney.

Along with "manga" artist-turned-anime director Katsuhiro Otomo, they constitute what could be called Japan's animation establishment. All released movies last year – each eagerly awaited by devoted fans – in what should have been an anime celebration.

Instead, there is muttering among veteran directors and producers that anime has nothing fresh to offer adult Japanese audiences that have grown up watching their movies.

Listen to Oshii on Miyazaki:

"From a directors' viewpoint, we cannot expect anything new from Miyazaki. He is like a very old man, almost retired now." Or to Toshio Suzuki, Miyazaki's longtime collaborator, on Otomo, whose new anime feature, "Steamboy," will be distributed in the United States in March: "There is only one theme in all his films: the conflict between adults and children. It's an old Japanese theme: The child fights against society, fights against evil. Otomo's thinking is rather old." (Otomo declined to be interviewed for this article.)

The criticism from within is evidence of an unsettling sense that, having acquired a global platform for their art, Japan's animators may have nothing terribly profound to say to the world.

"The tragedies of Japanese anime," Suzuki says, "are not too serious."

"I think inside his head Miyazaki wants to destroy Japan," explains Oshii, dressed in baggy jeans and sitting in his studios near Tokyo.

"But even though he knows his generation has created a nasty society, he has this hope that children will make a better world. So he makes movies that families and the children can enjoy.

"And it won't change until he makes the movies he really wants to make: bloody works; lots of bloodshed." Oshii knows blood. When Quentin Tarantino needed a Japanese animator to create a 10-minute anime interlude for "Kill Bill Vol. 1," he turned to Oshii, who produced a gore-fest of butchered bodies.

"I think I am a model citizen in real life, but in my brain, that's different," Oshii says with a big smile. "Everybody has a fantasy of doing something bad. Sometimes I want to launch missiles into every building in Tokyo, so I create a movie like that. I am making films about what I am thinking about: missiles hitting buildings.

"But Miyazaki is hiding. He has a passion to destroy Japan, but he's not making what he really wants to make."

Oshii is the godfather of a futuristic anime style called cyberpunk, and the synapses of anime fans are still quivering from his "Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence," released last year to great fanfare in Japan and a more cautious critical endorsement in the United States.

The film resumes the plot of his 1995 cult hit "Ghost in the Shell," praised by the Wachowski brothers as their inspiration for "The Matrix." The sequel trails Batou, a Descartes-spouting lug of an anti-terrorist cop as he wends through the morally weary world of 2032. He is trying to find out why gynoids, robots custom-built in female form for sexual company, have gone on a murderous rampage. But Batou is a human spirit living in a mechanized body. And he lives in a time when the bad guys can hack into your brain and download phony ideas and memories just to mess with you.

Along the way, Oshii indulges in his artistic fetish for sex and violence spiced with philosophical riffs on the dire state of mankind. It is a creepy vision: a bleak world where distinctions between robots and humans have been all but erased – and humans are not much worse off for it. "Humans are hopeless," Oshii says. "We have to admit it."

Oshii is the anti-Miyazaki. The directors make movies with as much in common thematically as "The Wizard of Oz" and "Blade Runner." And that may explain Miyazaki's better acceptance on the U.S. side of the Pacific, where he has forged an alliance with Disney (naturally), while Oshii's films have enjoyed critical praise but smaller audiences.

"Miyazaki always says animation is for children, so it should have a happy ending," says Suzuki, the director's creative partner, who handles almost all of Miyazaki's media interviews. "Other Japanese creators, especially film directors, manga and authors, are all writing about the apocalypse.

"Miyazaki stands out because he makes films that are more amicable, films about love."

Yes, if you want to take the kids to the pictures you're going to pick "Howl's Moving Castle" over "Innocence." Adapted from a children's book by British fantasy author Diana Wynne Jones, the "Howl's" tale of teenage Sophie and the Pan-like wizard of her affections has elements well suited to Miyazaki.

A lonely teenage girl with a dead father and a dead-end life. A sorceress who turns her into a bent old woman. And the charming but decadent Howl, living in a clanging bucket of a moving castle that is propelled by a fire demon.

Unlike Hollywood animation, in which computers have conquered all, Miyazaki's work still relies on his animator's pencil to give the film its look. The result is a gorgeous – if sometimes confusing – dance of imagination.

In Japan, the release of "Howl's Moving Castle" has been a cinematic event. The film was the country's top-grossing film in 2004, though it was not released until Nov. 20, a juggernaut that few critics are prepared to throw stones at as it passes.

"People don't criticize Miyazaki openly," says Yoshio Shirai, the former editor in chief of the leading Japanese film magazine Kinema-Junpo. "They practice self-censorship because they are afraid of losing their position." Shirai argues that Japanese critics fear being cut off by Miyazaki's studio, and thus fail to point out such flaws as hard-to-follow plots that befuddle children.

Indeed "Howl's" story line is not always coherent, nor relentlessly upbeat. There is a contorted Good-versus-Evil struggle for the wizard's soul, and a state of war is the bass line in the background that occasionally bursts onto the screen in full crescendo. Miyazaki draws frightening airships that blast and scorch his beloved landscapes.

If there is any common ground between Oshii and Miyazaki it lies with Suzuki, one of Japanese anime's wise men. His influence on the Japanese industry is pervasive: Suzuki produced both Oshii's "Innocence" and Miyazaki's "Howl's." He calls both men friends.

Unlike his dark anime visions, Oshii is cheerful and easygoing in person, while "Miyazaki's personality, on the other hand, is very pessimistic," says Suzuki. "Miyazaki has to put a brake on his thinking" when making a movie to get those happy endings.

State officials seek changes in 'No Child'

BY MICHAEL DOBBS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--A bipartisan group representing 50 state legislatures on Wednesday called for major changes in President Bush's landmark education initiative, which it lambasted as unconstitutional and impractical.

The 77-page report from the National Conference on State Legislatures reflected widespread local unhappiness with the No Child Left Behind law, which sets out federal requirements designed to ensure that every student is proficient in reading and math by 2014. It said states should be given much greater latitude in interpreting the law and opting out of provisions that undermine local initiatives.

Republican state Sen. Steve Saland of New York, who co-chaired a task force that took 10 months to review implementation of No Child Left Behind, said the law had imposed an impractical "one-size-fits-all" education accountability system across the country that was stifling local initiatives.

The state legislatures' report complained that the federal government provided less than 8 percent of the nation's education funds and was seeking to impose an unworkable accountability system in return. The task force said that the federal government's role had become "excessively intrusive" in an area where states have traditionally been permitted to take the initiative.

The report contends the law leads to the lowering of academic standards, increasing segregation, and the driving away of top teachers from needy schools. It alleges the government is violating the Constitution by coercing state compliance.

Over the past two years, more than a dozen state legislatures have adopted resolutions criticizing the No Child Left Behind law and demanding changes. But the bipartisan nature of Wednesday's report, and the fact that it was issued by a group that represents legislatures in all 50 states, marked an escalation in the war of words surrounding the law.

In the administration's defense, Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Education Committee, said critics "want the funding No Child Left Behind is providing, but they don't want to meet the high standards that come with it."

March-The Month Celebrating Women

"One Night"

March 3rd 7:00p.m.
Scanlon Banquet Hall

A performance of a group of close friends...alcohol...flirtation...and later, a conflicting story. Find out what happens when one accuses another of raping her. Who's telling the truth?

Health Fair

March 2cnd 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.
Ely Campus Center Lounge

Health-related information, activities and food. Information booths including: Westfield Yoga, Girl Scouts (cookies $3.50), American Red Cross, Tapestry, Weight Watchers, Womenshelter/Companeras, Planned Parenthood, GNC, and the Westfield Fire Department.

Film Series: "Ten"

March 7th 5:00p.m.
Ely Main Lounge

Professor Usha Zacharias, Communication. Portrays the life of an Iranian woman.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Taylor Silver strikes me as someone who pays attention. I couldn't agree more, some administrators should pay attention to the current needs. Staffing levels are all below standards, but it's about taking care of what we have, isn't it?

So let's do this; If you see a specific problem that needs attention, contact those that can do something about it. If they don't respond contact any AFSCME member we are here to help.

- Christopher Olsen
President
AFSCME Local 1067

Photo Exhibit

"Sites: an exhibition of black and white photographs documenting locations in Western Massachusetts where women have been murdered."

Photographs by Tara Conant, Professor at WSC and HCC. All images are displayed with text to describe what happened at each location. The views create a transition between a place seen as ordinary and safe to a place of violence.

March 7th - 9th, 8 a.m. - 11p.m., Ely Main Lounge/Lobby

Westfield State is no Park Place

"The Left Handed Elephant"
By David Pageau
Voice Columnist

So, parking? Sounds likes a pretty boring and not-so-fiery subject. I hate to bring upon any kind of scrutiny towards Public safety because of how helpful and essentially down-to-earth most of the men and women over there are. But I have some beef with "Ticket Nazi" and his "little Eichmanns" (Hey, Ward Churchill said it about three thousand innocent people who died. I think I can get away with it. Plus I don't mean it and it simply works well with the pseudonym "Ticket Nazi"). Everyone knows who I am talking about though, right? He runs around with his stack of green tickets, giving them out to any car that is not in its allotted section. Obviously he is not going to be the most well-liked individual on campus, but it is his job and it comes with the territory. And while he may not be the particular person who slaps the ol' green badge of courage on your windshield, my main concern is this: Why do you (Public Safety) ticket every car, truck, SUV, golf cart, tricycle, scooter, big wheel, skateboard and unicycle that is not in South Lot or Commuter Lot on some weekends, and on others I could park Grave Digger over seven handicap spots then bring ol' "Diggy" back down to South Lot on Sunday evening scot-free?

I and many Westfield State College students are very perplexed by how our parking guidelines can be so stringent and at the same time so laissez-faire. This really makes one wonder, is it because of a quota that you must fill? If it is, then why are the students being decieved into thinking that parking in Main Lot is okay? I personally have no idea what the rules are. Looking back, I distintely remember a notice in Scanlon Hall that stated the days and times students could park their cars in the main lots. Has this changed, and if so, why?

Fifteen bucks is not a lot of money, especially to someone with a full time job. However, parting with fifteen dollars for me as a college student can be very hard because those extra dollars that are now in the school's coffers could have been dinner for me. Or a movie. Or a birthday present for my mom. I think that Public Safety really needs to make the guidelines for parking on campus available to students and stick to them, because swindling college students who are already strapped for cash is only going to make them even more resentful towards any kind of authority on campus. Working with the college is what Public Safety should be striving for. While this might not wipe out the reputation that our esteemed parking clerk has gained over the years, it would make for a lot less confusion on the part of the students who don't want to walk from South Lot on the weekends.

Was the United States justified in attacking Iraq?

Come and ask the hard hitting questions!

Professor Emeritus Michael Engel will be debating Professor of Economics Gerald Healey and will also be fielding questions from the audience on this controversial issue.

Monday, February 28th, Scanlon Banquet Hall @ 7:00 P.M.

Sponsored by Professor Sossaman's *Issues in Vietnam* course, the Political Science Club, and WSC Republicans.

The Voice

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All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room 248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Damage control

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

President Bush recently took a trip across the Atlantic to meet with several leaders in Europe. During his first stop in Brussels, he gave a speech which highlighted some of the issues topping the United States' foreign policy agenda. These included rebuilding Iraq, promoting peace between Israel and Palestine, and ending Syria's occupation in Lebanon.

The major issue that has been on everybody's tongue lately has been that of the nuclear weapons program in Iran.

President Bush stated that Iran must immediately end its development of nuclear weapons and the Iranian government should stop supporting terrorism. Bush said that he would not rule out invasion yet but that was not a current option because the situation is still in the early stages of discussion.

The discussion, however, is being conducted by Britain, France, and Germany. The Bush administration has decided to opt out of the diplomatic talks. The three major players in Europe have strongly advocated for the United States to directly join in, fearing that without U.S. involvement, the talks will fail. Iran is being offered political and economic support to stop its production of nuclear weapons and hopefully to prevent Iran from becoming the new Iraq.

President Bush spoke about the global warming crisis in light of the Kyoto Protocol being signed by over thirty-five industrialized countries. The United States was not one of those countries. Bush promised to address the "serious long-term challenge of global climate change." Another issue add by President Bush was that of President Vladimir Putin of Russia, where recent action has been taken against media who have spoken out against its government. Bush said that we need to join together to promote a free press, since "freedom leads to peace." President Bush stated that Russia needs to go back to its democratic system and keep democracy flourishing.

"I'm looking for a good cowboy."

-President George W. Bush

This trip has been seemingly successful but many remain skeptical if President Bush's word will hold true in the end. Words do not equate into actions and it is easy to fill a foreign leaders head with rosy thoughts rather than play them out. The Bush team has been an active and aggressive administration that leaves no room for compromise. Both France and Brussels were firm opponents of the Iraq war and Bush's visit served somewhat as damage control. Hopefully these meetings will improve foreign relations with the countries and their leaders.

When President Bush met with President Jacques Chirac of France, there was obvious tension between the two leaders. But Bush attempted to ease the pressure by calling the Belgium frites as "French fries" instead of "freedom fries" which had been adopted when France refused to support the war in Iraq. When a French reporter inquired whether President Bush would extend an invitation to President Chirac to come to his ranch in Texas, Bush simply replied, "I'm looking for a good cowboy." Aren't we all?

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Gay marriage? Is there another kind?

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Earlier this month, The Simpsons tackled same-sex marriage with the heavy-handed gusto long associated with all well meaning television commentary. The episode itself didn't interest me so much as the warning Fox chose to air directly before the title credits rolled. It went something to the tune of: "The following program contains discussion of same-sex marriage. Parental discretion advised." Now, I'm all for networks giving lazy, negligent, and busy parents a like a five-second heads up, but I believe a reality check is due here.

This is The Simpsons. This is a show that has, for the last-decade-and-a-half, featured domestic violence, nudity, murder, homosexuality, alcoholism, drug-induced hallucinations, incest, and cannibalism. Let me say that last one again. Cannibalism. In all The Simpson's history, they've never aired a serious warning. Sure, they've had Marge come on and say that this year's Halloween episode was extra scary, but only to end with a belated "well, I guess you're going to watch it anyway."

But somehow, same-sex marriage is just too racy.

This absurdity aside, let's push out there some of the basic points for examination. The argument against same-sex marriage hangs largely on these two statements:

1) Marriage is a contract between a man and a woman.

2) Marriage is a sacred institution steeped in religion that would be cheapened if homosexuals could marry each other.

Okay, now here's the problem in article one: it's antithetical to our notion of justice. Why in the world should there be one, and only one contract that, legally, only a man and a woman should be able to enter into? It's not like only a member of the opposite sex can hire you, or loan you money. It's ridiculous and unjust that the law should care about your gender when determining what you can and can't do.

The second point has two counter-arguments. The first one is very obvious and it involves a 50% divorce rate and Britany Spears. Simply put, marriage is already a disease-ridden whore, mourning for an abusive and impoverish childhood that, through revisionism and nostalgia, has been idealized into a noble and perfect period of domestic bliss. But that's not the big gun. The big gun in the God of it. The religious significance of marriage, and all that significance implies, leads us to a solution that would have every Bible-thumping fundamentalist running for cover screaming "secular contract" like a syphilitic metaphor:

We must outlaw all marriage.

No, I'm serious. We must cast marriage, a religious ritual, out of our laws. Strike the very word itself from every, EVERY statute and guideline. Replace marriage with a civil union, a contract that implies nothing but holds with it the fiscal benefits of marriage. Have it be a standard contract, one with optional variations. Have this contract be accessible to any two people. Straight lovers. Gay lovers. Two guys who are just roommates, but one has a job with health coverage and he wants his roomie to get the spousal coverage.

Does something smell strange about this proposal? That's liberty you're smelling. Reeks of wet ozone doesn't it? Just think about it. Marriage is a religious ceremony according to many social conservatives. Fair enough, then the state has no business acknowledging or dismissing that ceremony. Does the state have anything to say on a young Jewish man who has been Bar Mitzvah'd? How about a Catholic who has had a confirmation? Do Baptists get any special rights/status in the eyes of the law once they're dunked? I think not.

It is, and has always been the intent of our beloved constitution to force the government to be blind to religion. If you want to be married, talk to a priest / rabbi / minister / etc. Uncle Sam will never say a peep, for or against. Uncle Sam doesn't care. Uncle Sam isn't going to tell you Evangelicals that a gay couple can or can't be married. It's up to you, in your own eyes, whether a gay couple is married. You never have to acknowledge their love, because this is a free country. They just have a contract, the same contract you have with your wife, and maybe a cousin has with his roommate. It's just a legal arrangement between you and the state. Just something on the books, to get your family covered under your health plan, and to ensure you get access to your family in certain situations. Your marriage is between you and your God, and those sinful homosexual's "marriage" is between them and their God. The State does not comment.

The State does not comment on matters of faith. What a lovely policy, no?

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Society and the Homo

"THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE"
BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

Sexuality is such a hot topic these days. It seems that each time I turn on the television to check out the latest music videos, they're resembling pornography more and more. Sex is everywhere and is used to sell anything and everything. Upon first glance, one would think that our society was undergoing some sort of sexual liberation. The media tells us that sex is okay and it is becoming more popular than ever before. This is the case for heterosexual individuals. For anyone who is not heterosexual, the case is quite different.

When I went to Boston to rally in support of gay marriage in Massachusetts, I was horrified at some of the signs I saw people carrying around. They ranged from simple sayings such as "Adam and Eve, Not Adam and Steve" to slurs like "AIDS: the cure to homosexuality." The most disgusting part of this was that these are the people whose sons and daughters will never be able to truly express themselves to their parents if they are gay or bisexual. What kind of message does this deliver to America's youth?

Being gay or bisexual is a huge factor in many teen suicides that happen in America every day. I've been dealing with my own sexuality recently only to find that the reason I cannot express myself fully (through sexuality) is because of society's effect on people's views on homosexuality (and bisexuality). While suicide has not crossed this young man's mind, it is easy for me to see why the subject becomes so unbearable to so many teens across the country.

The family in this country has been developed to such a point that an individual's family is supposed to be the closest emotional link he or she has to the outside world. The family is the closest link to putting the fuzzy pieces of the puzzle known as life together. However, when society affects a family in such a way as to look down upon a certain sexuality (which I contend is not a choice at all, why the hell would I want to deal with all this stress on top of all the other shit in my life?), the result is to create an atmosphere in which an individual cannot feel comfortable. If one cannot feel comfortable with his or her family, who is left?

"My friends... label themselves 'mysexuals,' signifying that they need not explain who they are to anyone."

For some reason, I have recently felt the need to label my sexuality, even though it would be much easier to follow the paths of my friends who label themselves "mysexuals," signifying that they need not explain who they are to anyone. However, when someone asks me, I feel that it would be nice to be able to give them an answer. Upon discussing the issue with a friend, I was informed that you cannot be bisexual; you must be one or the other. Well great, that about puts me back where I started! What if I don't want to choose, and moreover, what if the choice is not mine to make?

At any rate, I am just pissed off at society for making this such a big deal. I never see "breeders" struggling with issues of sexuality unless the issue is that they can't "get some." Hopefully you, my loyal readers, will realize from the last column I printed that there are some serious issues going on here. For a monogamous individual, it is quite difficult to find happiness when you are not even sure where the key to your happiness resides. The worst part is I have become so hopelessly confused that the topic has been berating my mind on a pretty steady basis.

I write a lot about "ideal worlds" and "ideal societies," but rarely ever do I write on the more positive aspects of our society. One must wonder; why would someone who is apparently so anti-societal even give a flying [expletive-deleted] about what society thinks concerning an issue such as sexuality?

This is what got me thinking about society's affect on the non-hetero sub-cultures. I smoke weed, I hate Bush, and I appreciate when massive amounts of people die, but I have a problem expressing my sexuality? Unfortunately, I feel that the basis to this particular problem lies within the realms of religion.

Religion, religion, religion. There is no need to go off on a tangent about religion; my resolve is simple. I hate all organized religion and think they should be abolished from the face of the Earth. I don't care what God thinks about what I do in the sack. These "Bible-bangers" seem to be able to waste quite a lot of time ensuring that people are conforming to their sexual positions. What a boring world would it be if the only sexual position we ever experienced was the missionary, right?

I blame Bush and organized religion for the unnecessary stress that has been added to my life at this already stressful point. If I was religious, I would be pissed at God, because according to Bush, He wanted him to be the president of our country. If the goal of Jesus W. Christ is realized and America truly does become the country to which all others look up to, then I am afraid that a horrible precedent will have been set for youth all over the world (instead of just in the United States and other Nazi nations).

Arts & Entertainment

Kevin Smith - Funny man extrodinaire

BY SARAH CAGAN
A&E EDITOR

Kevin Smith is the creator of many popular movies such as Dogma and Jersey Girl, though there are many more to his name. Only the true Kevin Smith fans have seen them all , and it began with Clerks. Clerks two is in the process of being established and I find this a good reason to review all his past films in tribute form. Clerks had it all, sex, drugs, violence, and even necrophilia. The brilliance of this movie was that it took place in a convenience store and the main character is the clerk that works there along with his plucky friend that works at the video rental place next to it. The phenomenal concept of this film is the hilarious drama that unfolds with realistic (yet quirky) characters. This was also the introduction of Jay and Silent Bob. Jay is a scrawny long -haired horn ball with the mouth of a sailor. Silent Bob is Kevin Smith himself; the character is a partially mute man of many personality traits expressed in eyebrow movement. The difference between Kevin Smith and his character Silent Bob is astounding. While Silent Bob usually utters no more than three words per film, Kevin Smith is an articulate chatterbox in every instance. The man is nothing short of a comic genius, who can weave remarkable tales with fascinating characters,

Kevin Smith's prowess in the theatrical revenue is due to his ability to make stories and characters in which the audience can connect with (or laugh at). After Clerks Kevin Smith's next movie was Mallrats. In this movie there are two guys that struggle with their relationships. Most of this movie is set in the cliché mall, you know, the ones we all went to in the teen years when we had nothing better to do. In this off beat love story there are many occurrences that are most amusing, one of which was seeing Kevin Smith decked out in a batman outfit trying to move a metal screw with his mind. As with all his movies this will tickle your funny bone and pull at your heartstrings.

Chasing Amy was the next film created by Kevin Smith. This film established an entire new genre with its risky content. The main character in the film falls for a lesbian, and he spends the entire time trying to swing her to the hetero team. The childish antics and adult content catches every eye and is guaranteed to bring a smirk to your lips. Not to mention the random characters such as Jay and Silent Bob who make a show just to beat up the Easter bunny.

The next film released was one of my personal favorites as well as one of the most controversial (coincidence?). Before Dogma was even released there was uproar from those of the Christian persuasion. This movie definitely involved religious content but the fact was that it wasn't about putting faith down, it was about inspiring faith in those that don't have it in spades. In this movie two fallen angles are trying to get back in to God's good graces. Of course doing so would prove God wrong, and since God is supposed to be infallible... pretty much their making it back into Heaven would obliterate all existence, as we know it. Of course this movie has a stellar cast, which helps, some of the names are Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Chris Rock, Kevin Smith (obviously), and many more. This movie changed my negative outlook on religion, as I am sure it did for many other individuals.

The movie Jay and Silent Bob was a joke and a half. I just didn't get the punch line. Though it had its moments of humor this was not in league with Smith's other films. Even though this was not my favorite I suggest you watch it just to expand your knowledge of Kevin Smith films.

Jersey Girl was definitely a step up from the last film faux paus. This film was more of a chick flick but good nonetheless. George Carlin's appearance brought a lot more dry sarcasm to the film. This is a great film though it was more geared towards a different audience than his usual slapstick comedy.

Overall, Kevin Smith will inspire you with humor and thought and I suggest for your own enlightenment that you check out this collection. And for those of you who are into the animation crowd, you should check out the Clerk cartoons. If this article doesn't convince of the brilliance of Kevin Smith then I have either not represented him well or you're a lost cause (probably the latter).

-File Photo

-File Photo

-File Photo

(Top left) Smith himself as Silent Bob with his counter-part, Jay. (Top right) Ben Affleck, a friend of Smith's acts alongside Liv Tyler in Jersey Girl. (Bottom right) Jesus lends a helping hand to the cast of Dogma. (Bottom left) Smith's film Clerks was made into an animated series.

-File Photo

New Keanu film is not the one

BY JASON YOUNG
VOICE REPORTER

Constantine tries too hard to be The Matrix. It tries to succeed as both an intellectual meditation on spirituality and an entertaining action film. Yet its only palpable success is how it manages to utilize the exact same camera motions revolutionized by the Wachowski Brothers – techniques they pioneered even before The Matrix in their 1996 film Bound.

-File Photo
Constantine's demons are about as atrocious as Reeves' new movie, according to Jason.

Constantine stars Keanu Reeves, the emotionless oaf who played Neo, as John Constantine, a supernatural detective perishing from the cancer sticks he has been smoking since he was fifteen. In the original DC/Vertigo comic book titled "Hellblazer," Constantine was a blond-haired Brit. Needless to say, the integrity of the original source has been compromised to cast Keanu in hopes to attract the same audience of the Matrix trilogy. The same audience that earned The Matrix Reloaded close to $300 million a few summers ago.

John Constantine is able to decipher half-breed angels and demons that walk the earth in human skin. Earlier in his life, he attempted to commit suicide to rid him of this daily horror but was unsuccessful. According to some religious jargon expressed in the film, this means that Constantine can not enter Heaven when he dies.

But all he has to do is put his feet into some cold water and look into the left eye of a cat to go to hell. It is in hell where he sees Isabel Dodson, the damned twin sister of Angela, both played by Rachel Weisz (you may remember Weisz and Reeves starring together in the big budget Chain Reaction back in 1996). Isabel successfully committed suicide, so Constantine feels a connection with Angela once he is finished playing hard to get. Thank the gods that Constantine spares us of a raunchy sex scene.

The tagline for Constantine reads: "Hell wants him. Heaven won't take him. Earth needs him." This is an intriguing subject. Its execution, a little less. A science fiction film about a man fighting for salvation could be powerful, but not if the director is more concerned with framing the lord of the underworld strolling suavely through a sheet of broken glass in slow motion. Entering the third month of 2005, mainstream cinema has yet to see a good film.

Constantine is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for violence and demonic images.

Poetry Corner

Anxiety eats away at my excistence
Devouring any chance of humanity
The fetid stench of failure surrounds my person
Frustration a constant companion
Time laughs at my futile attempts
Even my happiness wallows in self pity
It's good to know this will eventually end
I'm only anxious as to when.

-Jane Don't

"Everyone Loves A Clown"

I never wanted to be a clown
Stuck in a three ring circus
"Look at her" they all say
"Look at her juggle her worri
away"

Everyone loves a clown.

Make sure thet you're funny
It's up to you to entertain
Don't you dare drop a ball
Never ever show your pain

Everyone loves a clown.

Dance for me clown, make n
smile
It's up to you to save me
Was that a tear I saw roll dov
your cheek?
Keep on juggling, I'm feelin
meek

Everyone loves a clown.

Here we go clown, it's time t
be funny
Grab your rubber nose
You'vegot a crowd that need
saving
Let them down, and they'll t
raving

Everyone loves a clown.

I never wanted to be a clown

-Lisandra I. Billings

Boogeyman boogies away with your buck

BY JASON YOUNG
VOICE REPORTER

Some films are released with no advanced screenings for the press. Horror films typically practice this particular trend in the film industry for one specific reason. Most mainstream horror films are as inexpensive to produce as they are dreadful. So to ensure a larger opening weekend at the box office, perhaps even earning the film a profit in just three days, rich production companies make sure that no bad reviews scare potential audiences away.

This common story of corporate greed and capitalistic obsession is the only thing scary about Boogeyman, the most recent of four horror films released so far in 2005. If this review could have been released a little over a week ago, maybe Boogeyman wouldn't have earned back $19.5 million of its $20 million budget. Within a matter of weeks, the producers will have enough money to make yet another embarrassing excuse for a more financial success. All at the expense of some bored teenagers looking to be entertained – not robbed.

A rather eerie still of the Boogeyman movie. -File photo

Boogeyman stars Barry Watson, of television's 7th Heaven, as Tim Jensen, a man haunted by the death, killed by a Boogeyman who lived in his closet. Now in his mid-20s, his mother, played by Xena: Warrior Princess star Lucy Lawless, has just died. So, in classic horror movie fashion, he decides to face his fear by spending a night in the house

Boogeyman tries to height suspense by implying t Boogeyman's presence throughо the entire film and waiting until t last ten minutes to expose i appearance. The wait to s what it looks like is not wor it. Director Stephen Kay h the completely unorigin idea of creating a horrib CGI creature instead of hi ing an actual actor. Wolfgar Peterson's awkward fil Troy also did this instead casting extras, but there is r reasonable excuse for crea ing a film's title role on computer.

Barry Watson was diagnos with Hodgkin's disease May 2002. Fortunately, h cancer was reported in remi sion in April 200 Unfortunately, his profe sional career hasn't becon any more respectable since l tried to kill his teacher Teaching Mrs. Tingle ar cross-dressed for college housing Sorority Boys.

The Starting Line rocks New Haven and mocks WSC

NICOLE LEBLANC
VOICE REPORTER

The Starting Line kicked off their new tour on Tuesday Feb. 15 at Toads Place in New Haven, Connecticut. Other bands in the line-up included Jamison parker, Days Away and Further Seems Forever.

Arriving late to the show I missed the first band, Jamison Parker but made it in time to see Days Away as they set up their equipment. Days Away played a short set that did not include any of the songs I was familiar with. I stood in the back in anticipation of hearing Further Seems Forever and their new vocalist.

Days Away finished their set and I watched Further Seems Forever set up on the Stage. The new vocalist, Jason Gleason, has been singing with the band since 2001 after Chris Carrabba left the band in order do his own work with Dashboard Confessional.

Not impressed with the appearance of Gleason, who looked like a 45-year-old man with a receding hair line, and a fan of Chris Carrabba I did not expect much from the new singer. Trying to look past his appearance which was not the norm for a punk band I tried to listen to him as a vocalist. Soon I found myself getting into the songs and realizing that Gleason was not all that bad, although I did find his voice slightly irritating after a while.

The band played a decent set for a tough crowd. At one point something was thrown at Gleason which he did not find amusing and showed this by flipping off the crowd and threatening the unknown person.

However, ultimately the band is full of extremely talented members who have survived many changes and is still going strong. This being Gleason second tour with the band he seemed to be more comfortable with the fans and responded to their reactions well.

I wasn't sure what to expect from The Starting Line. They had always been a favorite of mine but I was unsure of how there performance would turn out, after all, the lead singer, Ken Vasoli, joined the band when he was only 14-years-old.

Making my way to the front of the stage I prepared for what turned out to be one of the best shows I had seen in a while. Starting out with a personal favorite, Up and Go, and playing other hits such as, Almost There Going No Where, Cheek to Cheek, Left Coast Envy and 3's A Charm. Along with an acoustic version of The Night Life and a new song which I failed to get the name of left the crowd pumped.

While talking to the crowd in between songs Vasoli was giving shout outs to places all over Connecticut when the kids I was with shouted out "Westfield State College!" Vasoli turned in our direction and screamed, "fuck Westfield State College!" leaving us excited that he mentioned out school even though it seemed as though we were the only ones there who were old enough to even attend college.

After about an hour and a half of playing their hits, with a variety from all of their albums it was time for the encore. Playing two of their best they started with an acoustic version of Playing Favorites. The band left the crowd with the decision of the final song played, which ended up being This Ride.

The show was a great time even though to me it started off kind of slow. I don't think I'd go watch Days Away again, and I am glad that I got to see Further Seems Forever. I would definitely recommend The Starting Line and have been listening to their CD non stop since I saw the show.

The Starting Line joined Jamison Parker, Days Away and Further Seems Forever at Toads Place in New Haven, CT. last Tuesday, Feb. 15. Pictured above is the bands lead singer, Ken Vasoli, and t othe right is guitarist Matt Watts.

-Photos by Nicole LeBlanc

New Shows Announced!

Tuesday, March 8th
Matchbook Romance
6 p.m., $12.50 adv

Wednesday, March 9th
TAKE ACTION TOUR
Sugarcult
Hawthorne Heights
AnBerlin
6 p.m., $15 adv

Friday, March 11th
Blue Floyd f. Matt Abts
7 p.m , $15 adv

Monday, March 14th
Breaking Benjamin
7 p.m, $18 adv

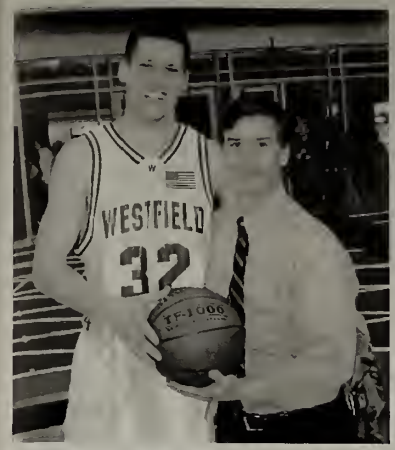
Tuesday, March 15th
Motorhead
6 p.m., $20 adv

Friday, March 25th
Steve Vai
7:30 p.m., $20 adv

Saturday, March 26th
Queens of the Stone Age
7:30 p.m., $22.50 adv

Interested in reviewing any of these shows for The Voice's A&E section?

E-mail us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com and we could send you to the show for free!



Westfield Stale men's basketball coach Rich Sutter presents the game ball to Vaso Jaukovic, who scored his 1000th career point on Feb. 19.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

Jaukovic, Chapin Selected To ESPN Academic Teams

Westfield State College's Vaso Jaukovic and Amanda Chapin have been selected to the ESPN The Magazine 2005 Academic All-America College Division All-District 1 basketball teams.

Jaukovic was a first-team selection and is eligible for national Academic All-America honors. Chapin was a third-team pick.

The academic teams were chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). District 1 includes Division 2 and Division 3 colleges in New England, New York, and five provinces in northeast Canada.

"This is a very prestigious honor for Vaso and Amanda, who are true scholar-athletes," said Westfield State men's basketball coach and assistant athletics director Rich Sutter. "They are a reflection of the type of students we want to recruit to Westfield State."

"This is the highest honor bestowed upon student-athletes by CoSIDA," said Mickey Curtis, Westfield State sports information director. "You have to be a truly outstanding scholar-athlete to even be considered for this honor."

Jaukovic earned an undergraduate degree in economics last spring with a 3.87 cumulative grade point average. He is now a graduate student in the public administration program.

Jaukovic's hometown is Niksic in the states of Serbia and Montenegro. This season he is averaging 13.2 points, 6.7 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. He had 1,006 career points heading into last Wednesday's game at Salem.

Chapin is a Westfield native who attended Suffield Academy. The Westfield State junior English major has a 3.69 grade point average. She leads Westfield in both scoring (12.2 points per game) and rebounding (12.3 per game). She ranks seventh nationally in rebounding in NCAA Division 3.

Honored during the men's basketball Senior Day were, left to right: Vaso Jaukovic, Ryan Bowler and statistician/manager Vanessa Charlot.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

Swim Teams Places 7th At New England Finals

WALTHAM – The Westfield State women's swimming and diving team finished seventh in the New England championships on Feb. 18-20 at Bentley College.

It was Westfield's best finish ever in the New England finals. The Owls also tied a school record for winning percentage and most victories in a season with an 8-2 dual meet mark for their 12th straight winning season.

"Everybody swam well for us," said veteran coach Dave Laing. "As they say in the swim vernacular, we hit the taper at the right time."

Junior standout Vanessa Morton particularly peaked at the right time. She placed second in the100 freestyle in a school record time of 54.81.

"She was just touched out at the finish," said Laing.

Morton finished fourth in the 50 freestyle (25.59) and sixth in the 200 freestyle (2:04.06). The Wellfleet (Nauset Regional) native also was a member of four relay teams: 200 medley (sixth), 400 fregstyle (seventh), 200 freestyle (eighth), and 800 freestyle (10th).

"Vanessa put it all together at the right time again this year and that was the key." said Laing

Sophomore Rachel Webb (West Springfield) finished fourth in the 200 butterfly (2:25.57) and 11th in the 1000 freestyle (1:53.2) and sophomore Marianne Wilson (Tewksbury) placed fifth in both the one- and three-meter diving events.

Laing also cited the performances of senior Nicole Spataro and sophomore Katie Piquette. Spataro shattered her personal best in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:29.54. Piquette eamed points in three events: 50 breaststroke (10th), 200 breaststroke (10th), and 100 breaststroke (12th).

Women's Team Scores (Final): 1. Bentley 902, 2. Brandeis 754.5, 3. St. Michael's 544, 4. Keene State 541.5, 5. Colby Sawyer 540, 6. UMass-Dartmouth 537, 7. **WESTFIELD STATE 442.5**, 8. Eastern Connecticut 345, 9. Bridgewater State 339, 10. Western Connecticut 332, 11. Plymouth State 163, 12. Univ. of New England 157, 13. Simmons 149.5, 14. Western New England 142, 15. St. Joseph, Conn. 106, 16. Salem State 101, 17. Roger Williams 100, 18. Regis 95, 19. Elms 58, 20. Norwich 48, 20. Gordon 48, 22. Wheelock 15.

SECOND: Vanessa Morton, 100 freestyle, 54.81.
FOURTH: Vanessa Morton, 50 freestyle, 25.59; Rachel Webb, 200 butterfly, 2:25.57.
FIFTH: Marianne Wilson, one-meter diving, 281.55; Marianne Wilson, three-meter diving, 306.9.
SIXTH: 200 medley relay (Lindsey Bartosz, Katie Piquette, Vanessa Morton, Melissa Blain), 2:01.32; Vanesse Morton, 200 freestyle, 2:04.06.
SEVENTH: 400 freestyle relay (Melisse Blain, Renee Kruszyna, Lindsey Bartosz, Vanessa Morton), 3:55.53.
EIGHTH: 200 freestyle relay (Melissa Blain, Lindsey Bartosz, Renee Kruszyna, Vanessa Morton), 1:47.01; Nicole Spataro, 200 butterfly, 2:29.54.
NINTH: 400 medley relay (Nicole Spataro, Katie Piquette, Heather Nelson, Melissa Blain), 4:34.89; Lindsey Bartosz, 50 backstroke, 30.97.
10th: Katie Piquette, 50 breaststroke, 35.32; Renee Kruszyna, 50 butterfly, 29.84, 800 freestyle relay (Lindsey Bartosz, Renee Kruszyna, Rachel Webb, Vanessa Morton), 8:47.45; Katie Piquette, 200 breaststroke, 2:43.
11th: Kara Phelan, 200 backstroke, 2:24.36; Melissa Blain, 50 freestyle, 26.72; Lindsey Bartosz, 100 backstroke, 1:07.19; Rachel Webb, 1000 freestyle, 1:53.2.
12th: Katie Piquette, 100 breaststroke, 1:16.6; Melissa Blain, 100 freestyle, 59.17; Shannon McMahon, 100 individual medley, 1:09.88.

Westfield State senior swimmers, left to right: Heather Nelson, Clare Cournoyer, Scott Munroe, Nicole Spataro, Elizabeth Predella. Missing is Kelly Springham.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

Vaso Scores 1000th Point

WESTFIELD – Sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin (Brighton) had 23 points and graduate student Vaso Jaukovic (Serbia/Montenegro) scored his 1,000th career point in Westfield's 94-66 victory over MCLA on Feb. 19.

Jaukovic had 996 points entering the game and quickly reached the magic milestone on a 17-foot jumper from the top of the key at the 16:31 mark. He finished with 10 points, including a resounding breakaway slam dunk with 2:49 remaining in the game.

MCLA trailed by 17 points, 50-33, at halftime, but the Trailblazers closed to within nine, 61-52, with 13:39 remaining. With Ogboin and Jaukovic sidelined with four fouls, and two starters (Steve Martins, Mike Jurkowski) sitting out the game with injuries, the Westfield reserves thwarted the comeback.

Six Westfield players scored in double figures, ineluding freshman guard Andy Deffer (Beverly) with 14 points. Deffer was a perfect 5-for-5 from the field and 3-for-3 from the foul line. Ogboin also shot well from the floor (9-11) and foul line (5-5).

Women's Basketball
Westfield 49 - MCLA 29

WESTFIELD – Junior Amanda Chapin posted her 17th double-double (14 points, 11 rebounds) of the season and set a school rebounding record in Westfield State's 49-29 victory.

Chapin, a Westfield native, set the new school standard for rebounds per game (12.34) in a season; the 5-9 forward is currently ranked seventh nationally in NCAA Division 3. The former school record was held by Ellen Carey, who averaged 12.26 rebounds per game in 1991.

Westfield finished its season with an 11-12 overall and 5-7 in the Mass. State Conference.

Freshman point guard Melissa Macchi (Peabody) had another fine outing for the Owls with 10 points, 3 assists and 6 steals.

Richardson, Donoghue Capture NE Crowns

Junior David Richardson and senior Tessa Donoghue won individual titles at the New England Division III indoor track and field championships held Feb. 19.

Richardson - who only stands 5-9 and weighs 152 pounds - won the high jump by scaling the bar at 6-7. The Beverly native's personal best is 6-8. Donoghue won the long jump with an effort of 17-8 1/4 despite twisting her ankle in practice last week. The standout from Springfield Cathedral High School competed in one other event, placing fourth in the high jump (5-1 3/4).

Also earning All New England honors were senior Peter King (Athol) in the shot put, junior Shawn McCorquodale (Athol) in the long and triple jumps, and senior Jen Howard (Hanson) in the high jump.

King reset the school record in the shot by finishing third with a toss of 52-1 1/4. McCorquodale finished fifth in the long jump with a personal best of 22-2 1/4 and placed eighth in the triple jump (42-10 3/4). Howard was eighth in the high jump, clearing 4-11 3/4.

Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:
-Men & Women's Dodgeball
-Men & Women's 5-5

Outdoor soccer playoffs wll be played on the turf as soon as SNOW DISAPPEARS!! So get your teams ready!

BENTLEY BILLIARDS (Downtown) & THE WSC INTRAMURALS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

THE WSC BILLIARDS LEAGUE

Beginning March 2cnd for eight straight Wednesdays (excluding spring break week)
Practice begins at 6p.m.
League play begins at 7p.m.

4-8 people per team
Co-Ed teams

There's a free shuttle from the Woodward Center to Bentley Billiards and back. Pick-up time is at 6p.m.

THINK SPRING!

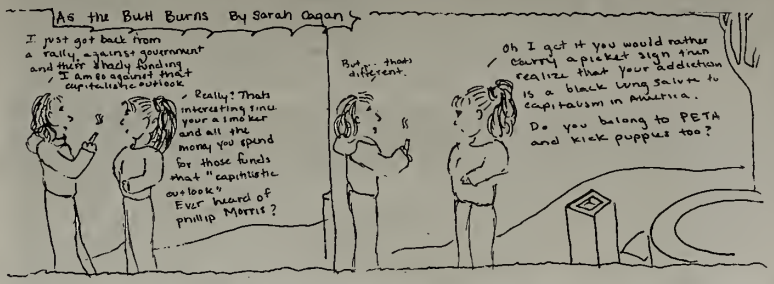
Start organizing your spring teams now:

Upcoming Events:	Rosters Due:
Floor Hockey (M+W)	March 2
Sport Trivia (M+W)	March 23
Softball (M+W)	March 23
Co-Ed Softball	March 23
Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	March 28
Ultimate Frisbee (M+W)	March 28
Home Run Derby (M+W)	April 27

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!



Be sure to pick up The Voice next week for more adventures in "As the Butt Burns!"

Do you have some deep thoughts of your own that you'd like to share with the campus community? We would LOVE to hear them! Send all of your deep thoughts to us at the-campusvoice@hotmail.com!

PS-This is not a joke...we really want your thoughts.

Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy

"It takes a big man to cry, but it takes a bigger man to laugh at that man."

"I don't think I'm alone when I say I'd like to see more and more planets fall under the ruthless domination of our solar system."

"When you go in for a job interview, I think a good thing to ask is if they ever press charges."

"Sometimes when I feel like killing someone, I do a little trick to calm myself down. I'll go over to the persons house and ring the doorbell. When the person comes to the door, I'm gone, but you know what I've left on the porch? A jack-o-lantern with a knife stuck in the side of it's head with a note that says "You." After that I usually feel a lot better, and no harm done."

"He was a cowboy, mister, and he loved the land. He loved it so much he made a woman out of dirt and married her. But when he kissed her, she disintergrated. Later, at the funeral, when the preacher said, "Dust to dust," some people laughed, and the cowboy shot them. At his hanging, he told the others, "I'll be waiting for you in heaven -- with a gun.'"

"If you saw two guys named Hambone and Flippy, which one would you think liked dolphins the most? I'd say Flippy, wouldn't you? You'd be wrong, though. It's Hambone."

"We used to laugh at Grandpa when he'd head off and go fishing. But we wouldn't be laughing that evening when he'd come back with some whore he picked up in town."

"When I was a kid my favorite relative was Uncle Caveman. After school we'd all go play in his cave and every once in a while he would eat one of us. It wasn't until later that I found out that Uncle Caveman was a bear."

For more deep thoughts visit: www.cco.net/~jpete/deepthou.htm

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

Searching for love? Companionship? Friendship? The Voice is here to help! Drop all personals in our box in the Ely Main Lounge and we'll publish them in the paper. Who knows, you could meet that special person you've been searching for all your life...

March- The Month Celebrating Women

Mon 2/28	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	
Tue 3/01	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	
Wed 3/02	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool	Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory Night - 6:30pm - EML	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm
Thurs 3/03	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	"One Night" - 7pm - SBH	
Fri 3/04	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	Brown Bag BINGO - 11pm - EML	
Sat 3/05	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight		
Sun 3/06	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm MTG Performance - 7:30 pm - DA		

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Get your Blue Key Nomination Papers

pg. 1

This week in opinion:

Homosexuality

pg. 9

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | March 7, 2005 | Issue XIX

When cancer calls, the empire strikes back

By Jason Young
Voice Reporter

Was the United States justified in invading Iraq?

Prof. Gerald Healy of business and Prof. Emeritus Michael Engel of political science debated this question Monday night in Scanlon Banquet Hall to an audience consisting of about 80 students.

"At times it was heated, but it was very interesting to hear different sides of the story," said Jon Mitchell, a student at WSC.

Students had no problem identifying which side of the political spectrum each debater represented.

"He looked like a typical republican," one student said, referring to Healy. "Even his hair was parted to the right."

Each debater was given the time for a five-minute opening statement. Afterwards, questions were directed either toward Healy or Engel. Whoever was asked the question was allotted a two-minute response, and the other was granted a one-minute rebuttal.

Healy started off his opening statement by explaining how difficult it is to speak a conservative view on campus.

"I take great risk in a place such as this by being this free enterprise capitalist who is a conservative who loves this country and believes they've done the right thing by bringing peace to so many millions of people," Healy said.

Many of Healy's arguments for the invasion of Iraq were explained through a metaphor concerning cancer.

"What we have confronting us is a cancer," Healy said. "We have to attack that cancer."

Healy said he believed

Debate- Page 3

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Professor Emeritus Michael Engel of political science addresses those assembled for the Iraq debate held this past Monday.

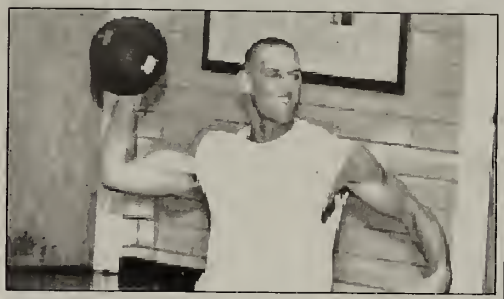

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Extreme dodgeball has been taking over the Parenzo gym this semester.

Extreme dodgeball intramural phenomenon

By Courtney Loftus
Voice Reporter

In the Parenzo gym, on Monday and Wednesday nights, students like senior Gabe Crane can be found reliving their youth. Crane is one of more than 150 WSC students participating in the very first season of intramural dodgeball.

Extreme dodgeball, a recent phenomenon, has grown so popular that organizations and leagues have sprung up all over the country, and Westfield State College has jumped on the bandwagon.

Upon first hearing about the league Crane said he was, "wicked excited and thought it was going to be the best intramural sport ever."

Teams consist of six players each, and games are played best out of seven. Each court takes up half of the gym so that two games can be played at the same time, with two referees per game.

According to junior, Andrew Smith, the dodgeball supervisor and intramural sports coordinator, rules are based on those of the Boston Sports Club and the 2004 film, Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. Some rules were altered in order to fit the college setting.

Smith said that a lot of people on campus were excited about starting a dodgeball league, and that with 25 teams, it has had one of the highest player turnouts of any intramural sport.

Because only one team has signed up for the girls' league, that team has been unable to play any games. All 25 teams in the guys' league play against each other, unlike other intramural sport leagues which are often divided into skilled and

Dodgeball- Page 2

Vagina's talk of the town

By Kaetlyn Kennedy
Voice Reporter

Whether you have one or not, love them or hate them, embrace them or ignore them, vaginas are here to be heard, and that's exactly what they did during WSC's benefit performance of the Vagina Monologues.

In honor of The V-day Organization and the Month Celebrating Women, students and teachers barefoot and dressed in black acted out a variety of dramatic soliloquies focused solely on one particular female body part. The word "vagina" was yelled, whispered, groaned, squealed and moaned over and over again in this play, each with a new story to tell. Covering serious vagina issues such as orgasms, menstruation, sex changes, childbirth, rape, gynecological exams and lesbian experiences, nothing was left unsaid. If you have a vagina, you could relate to most topics covered in the Vagina Monologues.

All the monologues were different but all included personal experiences and opinions. The readings were passionate and dramatic and ranged from serious to humorous.

The audience members were asked to relate their own vaginas (assuming they have one) to possessing minds of their own. If your vagina could talk what would it say? Possible answers included; "Not yet!"? "Enter at your own risk" "Remember me?"? or the

Monologues- Page 3

Report faces opposition

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

The Westfield State College Executive Council of the Massachusetts State College Association is entirely opposed to the external review done of Academic Affairs submitted to the college in late December.

The council drafted a letter to the All College Committee in which they call the review divisive and reject it on its merits.

"Our biggest objection is the recommendation of breaking up the college into three schools," said Gerry Tetrault, WSC chapter President. The review's focus was on streamlining and clarifying the department of Academic Affairs.

The three schools would be the School of Professional Studies and Education, School of Arts, Humanities and Social

Report- Page 2

Hard rock rages on this week's A&E pages

pg. 10-11

Ranking ranter Emily Engel responds to SGA letters.

pg. 8

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Dodgeball

highly skilled levels.

Despite games being scheduled between 8 p.m. and midnight, dodgeball has been attracting many more spectators than other intramural sports. Players also seem to be enjoying the game that, in the past, was most commonly associated with middle school gym class.

Crane, a movement science major said, "It's good to have something new. It's even more intense and more fun than I anticipated."

Recent rumors of serious injuries that have occurred during play have raised questions about whether or not the game is too intense.

Lou Ann Simchak, the intramural supervisor and head softball coach, said that there have been three reported injuries so far. One player aggravated a preexisting knee condition, and another hurt his hand but recovered quickly and was on the court the next week. Although Simchak said these injuries are minor and might be expected with any contact sport, the third, a broken nose, is more severe.

"That was the worst accident we've had," she said.

Crane's team was playing on the opposite court when the injury occurred.

"I didn't see him break his nose, but he came across our court," Crane said. "We had to stop our game because there was blood all over the court."

Smith said that whenever a player gets hurt, an accident report must be filled out, and if there is any blood, the player is taken to the trainer.

"Go hard or go home, that's our strategy."

Gabe Crane

Crane and Smith both agree that injuries are common to many other sports and are not something to worry about.

"It's not that big of a deal," Crane said. "Every sport you play, somebody gets hurt. Dodgeball isn't any more dangerous than anything else."

Simchak said that if the injury-rate becomes greater than those of other intramural sports, the dodgeball season may have to be cancelled. Smith said that he does not expect there to be many more accidents and that he looks forward to more intramural dodgeball seasons in the future.

As far as game strategies, Crane, whose team is currently undefeated, said, "Catch the weak throws and throw harder than everyone else.

"Go hard or go home," he said, "that's our strategy."

Photo by Mike Coughlin

Report

Sciences and the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Each school would be headed by a dean that would then report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

"The recommendations are more corporate than academic," said Tetrault. "They are trying to put the school together by taking it apart but we all know what happened to Humpty Dumpty."

The council cited academic, financial and due process concerns as objections for the review. Academically the council said that separating the college into three schools would foster competition instead of cohesion.

Financially, the council said that the seven new positions along with support staff will drain money from hiring new professors and librarians.

According to the MSCA contract all reorganizations of the school must go through governance. The council does not want the college to rush through the recommendations and execute them without due process.

The review also believes there is a need for an ombudsperson to handle any concerns of the faculty and staff prior to the filing of an official grievance.

Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Joan Rasool, said she believes the review was necessary. "I'm not looking for more layers of bureaucracy but ways to delegate authority," said Rasool.

Currently there are several candidates to fill the position of VPAA, which is expected to be filled by later March or early April, according to Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations.

The letter was to be presented on Friday to the ACC.

From the Editor's Desk

Why can't we be friends?

After reading through this week's letters to the editor, I couldn't believe the amount of animosity directed towards the newspaper and me personally. It's all right though, I made myself a warm cup of tea, curled up with my favorite blanket, had a good cry and got over it. Pete and I also shook hands and made up. In my eyes, the column did what it was supposed to do; It got people involved and hopefully got them to read the paper. I have to wonder though, why has the paper and SGA butted heads so often this year? So far we've argued over tasteless horoscopes, closed-door meetings, cassette tapes, Red Sox riot pictures and other assorted "contrived controversies." Frankly, this rivalry has gone too far. The late-night prank calls and dead snakes in my bed need to stop.

There's only one way to handle this situation ... The Voice officially challenges the SGA Executive Council to a kickball duel. The Voice is calling you out, SGA. We'll get all our aggression out on the kickball field. Mark my words, it will be a kickball battle of epic proportions. Once the snow has melted, we'll get in contact and settle this like two campus organziations should. And don't feel singled out SGA, The Voice is prepared to take on any on-campus organization in a kickball match. Math Club? What's the square root of "you lose?" MassPIRG? We'll hand their tree-hugging asses to them on a platter. Football team? Maybe we won't challenge the football team.

So what do you say, SGA? The winner gets to be the coolest club on campus and we can even have a barbeque afterwards. Drinks are on me.

Matthew Bernat
Editor in Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Where have all the faculty gone?

The most amazing event occurred last Monday evening in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. Students voluntarily gathered for two hours to witness two professors debate over current world issues, and more importantly, the war in Iraq.

Both Professor Healy and Professor Engel took time out of their busy lives to come down during an impending blizzard to debate over the outstanding issues facing the world. Both men did a wonderful job in expressing their views.

Each professor ended up fielding 15 questions. Even though some issues got heated, each question, despite the political affiliation behind it, was important and answered to the best of each professor's ability. Informative and interesting, this was a 120 minutes well spent.

I must say, my faith in the students of Westfield State College has been restored, slightly. Some of the most intelligent and thoughtful students we have to offer were in attendance, ready to listen and offer up their questions and opinions. They were also quite brave, having to walk ten feet up to the microphone in front of eighty-plus students in order to speak.

I'd like to say hats off to Professor Sossaman's *Issues in Vietnam* class for putting together this debate. Also, three cheers for Alex Trzsako for moderating with such professionalism and overall stamina. He did, in fact, stand between two boisterous scholars arguing over war. His ears must be still ringing. As Professor Engel stated at the end of the debate, it's hard to get two academics to shut up, so great job, Alex.

I was quite impressed with the turn out of students and their willingness to get up in front of an audience to ask questions of these professors on such an important topic. It's nice to see students actively involved in something, other than a game of beer pong. I sincerely do hope there will be more events of the like.

However, there was a downside to this unique event. I was greatly disappointed in the fact that there was not one member of the faculty in attendance besides the enthusiastic Professor Sossaman, who spent the evening taking pictures. Considering most of the faculty are outwardly protesting the fact that they have no contract, a political issue of their own, not to mention caring about articles and polls written in The Voice (enough to write letters to us), one must wonder why they didn't take the time out of their busy protest sign making and letter writing schedules to attend this political debate. What kind of example is this? Keep that in mind next time you expect students to care about events on campus. You might've even been proud to see your students in action, caring about something. Oh well. Maybe next time.

Emily Engel
Managing Editor
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
Buy your senior week packet before March 11th!
The total cost is $165 and includes:
The Senior Slide Show
A night at City Limitz with a champagne toast
The Hu Ke Lau (X-rated hypnotist, food, ect.)
Comedy Connection in Boston
Events are closed to the public and you can only get in with a packet.
MUST BE 21 + TO ATTEND!

Debate

that "circumstantial evidence" was all he needed since 9/11 to approve of the war on Iraq.

"To think that these people are not connected to each other is rather, I think, naïve," Healy said.

"He is willing to work with circumstantial evidence because his feelings are so great," said Prof. Stephen Sossaman, whose Major Issues in the Vietnam War class co-sponsored the debate along with the Political Science Club and the WSC Republicans.

Prof. Engel does not believe there is any connection between Iraq and the 9/11 attacks.

"It isn't related at all in the fact in Iraq. It was used as an excuse to implement the policies that were already decided," Engel said. "If 9/11 hadn't happened, the Bush Administration would have had to invent something like it in order to justify its invasion, just as Lyndon Johnson invented the Tonkin Gulf incident in 1964 to justify our intervention in Vietnam."

He said he believes that America's true aim is to be a strong imperialistic power.

"The invasion of Iraq has to do with empire, not for the battle against terrorism," Engel said.

Healy denied the claim.

"Our entire history has been that we never interfere with anybody other than to make them better for when we leave," Healy said. "We take over no country. We only bring them peace."

Engel rebutted Healy's claim by providing historical examples of takeovers conducted by America.

"U.S. history, in contrast to what Professor Healy said, consists of a great deal of imperial actions," Engel said. "We picked a fight with Mexico so we could end up with what is now the southwest United States. We declared the manifest destiny which we spread from coast to coast. We pushed the Indians out of the way."

Healy expressed his love for America very passionately.

"I am an American, and I am very proud of that fact," Healy said. "I am very proud to live in the greatest country ever devised by man or blessed by God."

"We are a sovereign nation," Healy said. "We have the greatest political system. There is nobody close to us."

Engel also articulated his thoughts on America.

"I think we should get out of Iraq," Engel said. "I think we should turn away from the road to empire, and I say that because I am an American, I value Democracy, I care about our future, and I love my country."

Moderating the debate, Alex Trzasko stood between Healy and Engel and made sure that everyone abided by their respected time limits.

"Some of the questions stepped on Healy's toes," Trzasko said. "Healy got a lot more tougher questions than Engel did."

He also said that Engel's line was usually much shorter than Healy's. Students took advantage of this.

"Some people went to Engel's line and threw him a softball," Trzasko said.

Others were not so nice with how Healy handled the debate.

"I don't think Professor Healy provided complete answers," Mitchell said. "Professor Engel was more composed and more professional."

Other students admitted that maybe the questions were under-developed, and perhaps misled the debaters to give answers the students weren't particularly looking for.

Prof. Sossaman's Major Issues in the Vietnam War class is planning a panel discussion concerning the utilization of torture.

It will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. All of the panel's participants have not been completely decided upon yet. Posters will be up around campus once all of the details are known.

Voice of the Week

Shannon Wilga

Role at WSC: RA of four east in Courtney Hall

Year at WSC: Junior

Major: Communications with radio and television with a minor in multicultural and ethnic studies

Favorite part of being an RA: "The students who I can help."

Hardest part of being an RA: "Dealing with the same situations everyday like the noise."

Favorite movie: *Without a Paddle*

Favorite T.V. show: *Third Watch*

Favorite song: *Remember to Breathe* by Dashboard Confessional

What she wanted to be when she was little: A singer or an actress

Childhood hero: Grandma B.

Advice for students with roommate problems: "Try to confront situations yourselves. If that doesn't work, get in touch with your RA so you can weigh your options."

Voices of the Week compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Monologues

national vagina anthem "SLOW DOWN!!" Other questions explored were, what does your vagina smell like? What would your vagina wear? And what do you call your vagina? All had interesting and enjoyable responses.

Although the Vagina Monologues was humorous at times, it put forth a serious message; Violence against women needs to be ceased. With 500,000 women raped every year and 130 million women forced to undergo genital mutilation (female circumcision by removing the clitoris and labia usually as a cultural right) violence is something women know too much of.

Through V-Day campaigns, such as the Vagina Monologues, awareness and funds for anti-violence groups are raised. The Vagina Monologues goes to show that the stories and passions of women will not go unheard.

For more information about V Day, the global movement to stop violence against women, visit their website at www.vday.org.

Photo Exhibit

"Sites: an exhibition of black and white photographs documenting locations in Western Massachusetts where women have been murdered."

Photographs by Tara Conant, Professor at WSC and HCC. All images are displayed with text to describe what happened at each location. The views create a transition between a place seen as ordinary and safe to a place of violence.

March 7th - 9th, 8 a.m. - 11p.m., Ely Main Lounge/Lobby

ANOTHER DATE AUCTION!?

That's right.
And this time WSKB
is in control.

Come to Dever Auditorium on
Thursday, March 10
At 7:00 p.m.
Only $1 admission

Bid to win a date with your favorite member of **YOUR** radio station!

There will also be a raffle for other prizes as well as FREE CD give-aways!

YOU COULD WIN TICKETS TO THE SENATE BANQUET!

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Voices Overheard

What are you doing over Spring Break?

Tiffany Puliafico
Class of 2007
MCOM

"Welcome to Miami baby! Going down to Florida with my girls and meetin' up with Dodge!"

Chris Dodge
Class of 2005
Criminal Justice

"I'm going to Fort Lauderdale. Gonna go to the beach and look at the women!"

Eddie Paris
Class of 2006
MCOM

"I'm going to work and visit my new Goddaughter."

Lisa Wilkinson
Class of 2008
Undecided
Stephanie Giannakopoulos
Class of 2008
Early Childhood

"We're going to Cancun to party!"

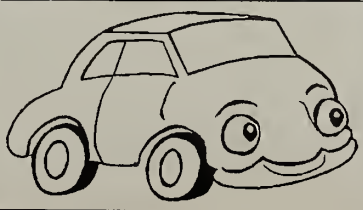
Voices Overheard compiled by Lisandra Billings.

REMINDER FROM LIBRARY

All overdue library books must be returned and overdue fines paid before Spring Break. Failure to do so will result in additional fines during the break. Outstanding fines could obstruct registration for class next semester and/or graduation. Please stop at the ciculation desk in the library if you have any questions regarding your loans or fines, or call the library at ext. 5231.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY-

Juniper Park Commuter Lot is now available as an overflow lot for the remainder of the semester for people with Main Lot decals!



Lawyers argue ten commandments cases, with Moses in the background

BY CHARLES LANE
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--The subject at the Supreme Court Wednesday was the Ten Commandments on government property, and Moses was the star of the show.

A stone image of the patriarch, holding a Hebrew-inscribed tablet, occupies a prominent place in the justices' own courtroom, alongside Confucius, John Marshall and others in a frieze dedicated to history's great lawgivers.

As lawyers argued for and against disputed displays of the Decalogue in Texas and Kentucky, they and the justices repeatedly referred to that frieze.

What if, instead of a six-foot stone monument on the state capitol grounds bearing the words of all ten commandments--beginning with "I am the Lord thy God"--Texas posted a version like the one Moses holds in the frieze, in which only the last five are visible? Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked.

"That is still unconstitutional. It would still be the state of Texas expressing the message that there is a God," replied Erwin Chemerinsky, a Duke University law professor representing an opponent of the Texas monument. The court's frieze,is constitutional, Chemerinsky said, because it places the commandments in a secular, historical context.

So does the Texas monument, countered Greg Abbott, the attorney general of Texas. He told the court that it is part of a "park-like" area dotted with monuments to veterans, pioneers and other "historical influences" that have shaped Texas.

The Texas and Kentucky cases, argued separately over the course of two hours, represent the court's first foray since 1980 into an issue that most recently boiled over with the failed effort of Judge Roy Moore to install a massive stone copy of the Ten Commandments at the Alabama Supreme Court.

Opponents of displaying the Ten Commandments on public property say it amounts to a governmental imposition of monotheism. Proponents say it is often nothing more than a recognition of the role Judeo-Christian norms played in Western Civilization and the founding of the United States itself.

The court banned the mandatory display of the commandments in public schools in 1980. Its broader doctrine on publicly sponsored religion permits limited exercises or displays that serve a secular purpose, such as acknowledging the historical role of religion in American life, without "endorsing" particular beliefs.

Accordingly, the court has approved of a prayer to open the session of a state legislature, upheld a city-sponsored nativity scene alongside other Christmas symbols such as Santa Claus, struck down an invocation at a public high school graduation--and ducked a controversy over the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

But, as Wednesday's debate showed, that body of law has grown tangled and difficult to apply.

Matthew Staver, representing two rural Kentucky counties that display the commandments in their courthouses, noted the "historical nature" of those exhibits, which include the commandments among other documents such as the Magna Carta and the lyrics to the "Star-Spangled Banner."

But David Friedman, of the American Civil Liberties Union's Kentucky chapter, pointed out that the displays had at one time featured only religiously oriented texts, and were changed after the ACLU's lawsuit began. He also said they were posted in response to a resolution by the county legislatures declaring support for Roy Moore and referring to Jesus Christ as "the prince of ethics."

This, Friedman said, showed that the counties' claims of a "secular purpose" for the displays are "a sham."

Friedman was banking on past Supreme Court decisions that have spoken of the need for a "secular purpose" in government-sponsored religious display, but there were indications Wednesday that the justices are finding that unworkable.

The Bush administration, which supports both Texas and the Kentucky counties, encouraged those doubts. In responses to questions from two justices, David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor, Acting Solicitor General Paul Clement urged the court to abandon its efforts to judge the intent behind various religious displays and focus instead on their effects.

"The focus on purpose is not so productive," he said.

Still, in a remark that may have disappointed some administration supporters, Clement conceded that Moore's monument to the commandments "may well cross the constitutional line."

Justice Antonin Scalia saw a different problem in the court's precedents, noting that they effectively force governments to adopt non-religious pretexts for what should be unabashed religious displays.

The commandments, he told Chemerinsky, are "a symbol that government authority comes from God, and that's appropriate." When Chemerinsky objected that "it is a profoundly religious message," Scalia responded: "It is a profoundly religious message, but it's shared by the vast majority of the people. ... It seems to me the minority has to be tolerant of the majority's view."

Justice Anthony Kennedy seemed to agree, chiding Chemerinsky for "an obsessive concern with any expression of religion."

Several times, Justice John Paul Stevens asked attorneys for the various parties whether the Texas issue could not be settled by simply selling the land under the monument to a private group and erecting a sign declaring that the state did not intend to endorse religion.

"That's bending too far in the other direction," Clement said.

"It's so hard to draw that line," O'Connor observed, possibly speaking for many both on the court and in the audience.

Kirstie Alley: Enjoying her just desserts

BY JUDITH S. GILLIES
THE WASHINGTON POST

When they pitched the idea for "Fat Actress" to Showtime executives, Kirstie Alley and Brenda Hampton sent 24 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts to the network's offices.

Enclosed was a note: "If you have any left over, send them back to us."

"I think we ate them all," said Robert Greenblatt, Showtime's president of entertainment.

The 288 doughnuts sweetened the pitch, but Greenblatt said Showtime thought the series was hilarious from the start. He was a little hesitant at first because he "wasn't sure how people would take it . . . but we've touched a nerve with this topic, and that surprised me. I didn't know how much of a hot button it was."

For Alley, "Fat Actress" has been "100 percent liberation."

"The tabloids were saying that I was 100 pounds heavier than I was. Basically, the phone stopped ringing. . . . The only jobs I was being offered were characters and parts older than myself. I thought, 'Uh-oh.' "

So she came up with the idea of a fictionalized, exaggerated version of herself, playing an overweight actress trying to shed pounds and find a job.

Alley, 53 and 5-foot-8, said she weighed more than 200 pounds when she started the series.

She knew she was overweight, but "when I saw the first episode, I thought, 'Oh, my God! I had no idea I was that fat.' "

Alley created and produced seven half-hour episodes with Hampton, who started as a comedy writer before she dreamed up WB's family drama "7th Heaven."

"Fat Actress" is an unscripted comedy with a lot of improvisation --and a lot of saucy language.

"There are very tight outlines that Brenda and I write," Alley said. "We know what we're doing as we go in and out of a scene but sometimes we veer, so it's improv in varying degrees."

Populating Alley's fictional world are Bryan Callen as Eddie, a wannabe actor who is Kirstie's personal assistant, and Rachel Harris as Kevyn, Kirstie's makeup artist and hairstylist.

Alley, who seems to know almost everyone in Hollywood, got many celebrities to guest star, including John Travolta, Kid Rock, Carmen Electra, Melissa Gilbert, Mayim Bialik, Kevin Nealon, Mark Curry and Leah Remini.

Kelly Preston has a role as a cynical weight-loss adviser with oddball techniques--such as making yourself gag using "something pretty."

"If anyone takes advice from Quinn Taylor Scott, they are in serious trouble," Hampton said of Preston's character. "It's just too absurd to be taken seriously."

NBC President Jeff Zucker plays himself in the premiere and a later episode. "He was so comfortable and funny in his role that we kept giving him more and more lines," Hampton said.

Despite the famous faces, Alley said the series isn't limited to insider Hollywood. The show is about women, the things they experience, and how easy it is to prey upon their insecurities. It also looks at age, especially in relationship to men and work, she said.

"My intention is to get thin again because that's how I like my body. But this is a show about women and their insecurities. We just start with fat."

The series begins with Kirstie stepping on a bathroom scale, letting out a cry and collapsing into a heap. She crawls across the bedroom floor to answer the phone. It's her agent with an offer--not for a part, but to become a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig.

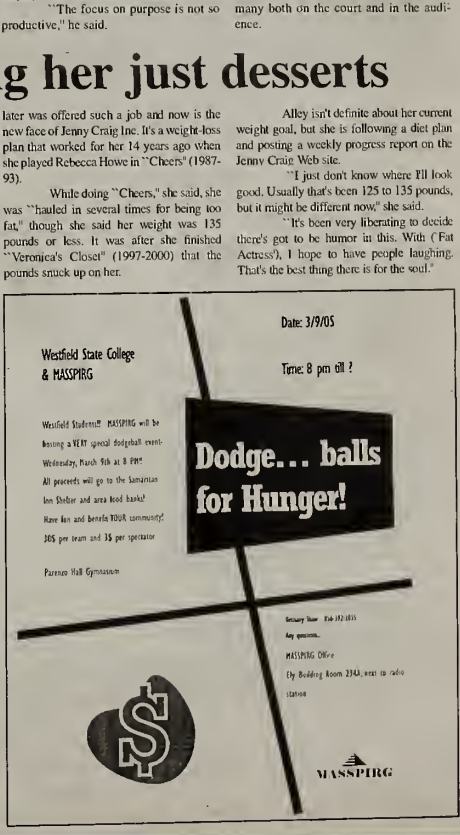
And in a life-imitates-art deal, Alley later was offered such a job and now is the new face of Jenny Craig Inc. It's a weight-loss plan that worked for her 14 years ago when she played Rebecca Howe in "Cheers" (1987-93).

While doing "Cheers," she said, she was "hauled in several times for being too fat," though she said her weight was 135 pounds or less. It was after she finished "Veronica's Closet" (1997-2000) that the pounds snuck up on her.

Alley isn't definite about her current weight goal, but she is following a diet plan and posting a weekly progress report on the Jenny Craig Web site.

"I just don't know where I'll look good. Usually that's been 125 to 135 pounds, but it might be different now," she said.

"It's been very liberating to decide there's got to be humor in this. With ('Fat Actress'), I hope to have people laughing. That's the best thing there is for the soul."



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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

It seems that you have gotten facts mixed up with your own opinion and I would like to clear some of them up for you. First of all, Shawn Lehair did not get the shaft and it was not because he did not fit it at SGA. Shawn got to make his case before the Senate and it was determined by the Senate that he needed to follow the rules, just like everyone else. Senators have been removed for violating the attendance policy and the Senate did not see Shawn's case to be different. The vote (16 in favor, 19 opposed), also showed there was sympathy in the room, so please stop generalizing that the entire Senate was out to get Shawn.

The fact that Shawn doesn't "fit in", according to you, is a ludicrous notion. No one "fits in" at SGA, royself included, as well as the Executive Council. We are all elected by the campus community and all come from unique walks of life. We don't go around and pick out people that would look good to fill the seats at SGA.

Despite whatever notion you may have about SGA and its image, that was never an issue with anyone and no one has ever been removed simply because SGA doesn't believe they belong here. In addition, I have heard Shawn speak at SGA and though I don't fully agree with him on certain points, I respect his opinions and feel they are just as valid as everyone else's opinions.

Also, the fact that the Senate did a ballot was because Senate is within its rights to do so. The purpose of the ballot was so Senators may vote without fear of repercussion from other Senators or others present for the vote. The Executive Council did not force the ballot vote on the Senate, and they even asked if Shawn was fine with it, to which he responded YES. Therefore, stop making an issue of it, since it is a non-issue.

It is a shame that you failed to include this event in the article on SGA that appears in The Voice every week and you decided to write a one-sided opinion instead, with no facts. I hope that this clarifies things for you a little better, and for the campus in general, who, in your opinion, have a right to know what is going on. Please try harder to present a more balanced view next time.

- Michael Mazeika
SGA Parliamentarian

To the Editor,

After reading the editors desk I once again was disappointed in the integrity, quality, and maturity of our campus newspaper. The embarrassment stems from my involvement on campus as well as writing and journalism concentrations from the English and Mass Communication departments.

I only noticed a few aspects even worth commenting on.

First of all, maybe Shawn would appreciate your pity plea more if you spelled his name correctly. Lahair.

Secondly, a stronger argument may have included the policy and the violations since it is public record and each of the senators not only knows the policy, but they each have a copy of it. It also might have been journalistically accurate to include for readers what a senator can do about absences and what it takes before the policy even goes into effect.

For the third paragraph, I am actually humiliated that you would offer one of your own staff members to use as a derogatory example. Pete remains to be viewed in a positive light from my standpoint. Attendance is one of my roles and Pete and I discussed everything and he chose not to resign; he choose to wait until the attendance policy, which he understood, removed him from senate. Ask Pete about his involvement since he is an active member on campus and remains on the food committee, and to my understanding, he is in at least one of the multi-cultural groups on campus.

Lastly, if you prefer to convince yourself that senate is more concerned with appearances, then you have been wasting your time at our meetings. Maybe I should direct you to some of our senators who spend hours a week doing everything they're "supposed" to do, they will tell you differently. Every week senators spend hours a week filling his or her elected positions doing everything they are required to, and then some. They do not complain about it, nor do they try to get by slipping through the cracks or pretending they are unaware of the rules.

Our policy is defined, explained, and in effect for every member of our senate. Just ask them. "Suzie Cutie" as you call it would, what do you call it, "fall victim" to the same standards as every other senator.

"Fall victim" is an interesting word choice, and I mean interesting as when your great aunt gives you a sweater you will never wear but you are grateful for the thought. I not only find it "interesting" but not surprising that you would prefer to target SGA rather than confronting the real issues on campus.

SGA expects senators to be responsible for their own actions. Whoa, I thought we were adults here; apparently you do not view the campus community in the same way as I do. While I welcome differences in opinion I would also love to see some difference of opinion in the paper. I don't mean contrived controversy but issues and the standpoints students on campus have. Do some real reporting, even you will find them but note you will have to report on the facts rather than your opinion.

Questions regarding attendance information and policies can be directed to me by calling my office in SGA @ 5429.

P.S. The Blue Key article has a few mistakes. The Voice spelled several names of the committee members incorrectly; Timothy MacDonald and Sara Prentice should accept apologies. Also, the email was spelled incorrectly; it is sgaexec0405@yahoo.com. I would appreciate this be updated for the next issue. Mocking the highest award students can receive on campus was not the outcome I expected when I suggested it as a story idea.

- Emily Ransom
Legislative Secretary
Class of 2006

To the Editor

I was deeply disappointed with Matt Bemat's Editors Desk for February 28th. To me it was a very misleading and uninformed opinion. As a member of the Student Government Association, I was personally offended and disheartened at the characterization of Shawn Lahair's removal from Senate as a personal attack.

In our constitution, the attendance policy is clearly spelled out. As you pointed out a number of times in your article, Shawn had been a senator for 3 t/ years. He clearly understood the attendance policy; he violated it, was removed, and received his right to an appeal, which he lost. First of all, your article seems to assume that Senate as a whole voted against him, while in fact the vote was 16-19 in favor or upholding the removal. Just shy of half of the senators did in fact vote to give him a second chance (75% is needed)

In answer to your question, YES, if "Senator Suzie Cutie" was in the same situation she would have been treated exactly the same. Questions such as, "Why would you make doctor's appointments on Tuesday's, How many committee meetings did you attend," etc. are questions that should have been brought up of anyone trying to explain why they should be excused from violating a policy. Senators are recommended to perform two hours of community service on campus per month. Out of a recommended twenty-four units so far this year, Shawn had performed five. Out of a potential eight committee meetings, he attended one. Senate is very understanding of personal issues and provides for the use of an alternate to be sent in a senator's place if they cannot make the meeting, which was never utilized. Due to all of this information, all of which was presented at the Senate meeting which you attended, I am baffled how you would be able to come to your conclusion that Shawn was mistreated.

The Executive Council was very good about giving excused absences for Shawn's personal reasons, yet that was not portrayed whatsoever by your opinion. Shawn's total absences did not even count the absences due to his personal reasons, they were all absences which he did not tell anyone in advance or mention at all until he was removed.

In response to the statement that, "They didn't even let him see who voted against him, it was done by paper ballot, for shame SGA." I would argue that this is not a problem whatsoever. I researched past appeals before that meeting and found that this was common practice so that people's votes were not influenced by the person's presence. I am the person who made the motion for a paper ballot. A person might feel that removal is warranted, but feel uncomfortable voting against the person in front of them, therefore a paper ballot gives comfort to the voters without changing the outcome. Furthermore, Shawn had to approve of the paper ballot before it was even allowed to be used, which he did. If Shawn had no problem with the paper ballot then complaints about it are unwarranted.

The idea that he was mistreated because "Shawn is different, he doesn't fit in at SGA" is absolutely ridiculous. Senate accommodated his personal issues. However, to give him special treatment for unexcused absences because he has been on senate for four years would be unfair to everyone else. There are freshman who were removed from Senate for the very same reason. Why should Shawn's claim be any more valid because he has served longer?

Furthermore, Shawn was approached ahead of time when he was in danger of reaching his absence limit and told that he was able to make up some of these absences.

He apparently decided that this was not necessary; therefore Shawn has no one to blame but himself. There is no evidence whatsoever to accuse us of singling Shawn out. The facts spoke for themselves. Unfortunately for Shawn it did not work out in his favor, but the actions of the SGA were completely fair and justifiable.

It is a sad day when someone who claims to be a "journalist" completely ignores the facts of an issue and generalizes a false accusation without the facts to back it up. I understand that a writer is allowed to take certain liberties with an editorial, but your complete disdain for facts in this instance was sickening

- Timothy MacDonald
Class of 2005

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Letters to the Editor cont.

To the Editor:

I would like to begin this letter by stating that I'm writing this completely on my own. These are the words and thoughts of myself, and in no way do they reflect upon any of my fellow Student Senators.

I was really disturbed by your recent rant of an Editor's Desk regarding Shawn LaHair. I'm going to start from the top of your tirade and work my way down. Let's begin.

First, you mockingly refer to Pete Norwood as "riff-raff" as compared to "the more respectable members of SGA." You say this as though we, the senate, think of him this way. Had you looked into this accusation more (don't think, however, I'm surprised you didn't), you would have known that Pete interviewed for the position against other candidates, and was chosen for the position. After he successfully interviewed, he had to stand in front of the senate and have that decision be accepted by all of them. It was.

Now, I would like to ask you about "Suzie Cutie." Do you have reason to believe this ever goes on in SGA? I realize you are making up this hypothetical situation, but is it based on any true events, or are you completely making false accusations based on your misconceptions of an organization you obviously do not know much about? You say someone like "Suzie Cutie" votes as she has been told. By who? Have some of my fellow senators (all of whom I hold in very esteem, regardless of their dress or how they articulate their thoughts), come to you and said they are told how to vote, or is this just another one of your false allegations?

Next, we'll move on to you covering "a few SGA meetings." I hope your readers know that you're being literal here. And of those meetings you attend, it is not uncommon to see you walking in late after missing our speaker for that meeting, or leaving early missing any last announcements. Don't think that this goes unnoticed, because it doesn't. Based on this fact, I don't see how you could possibly try to dissect SGA the way you have. What you've done is to follow the style you have set for the rest of your publication (notice I do not dare refer to it as a newspaper...you don't deserve that credit), and made statements you have nothing to back with.

Also, I'd like to publicly say sorry to the Student Senators on this campus that you have cast such a horrible light on. They come every Tuesday, some for even four years (yes, a lot of meetings), and they take their jobs extremely seriously. They make some pretty hefty decisions for which they've taken a lot of criticism for, especially from this publication. Yet, they still come, and they deserve some credit for that.

Lastly, Mr. Bernat, I would like to close by saying this. I sure as hell better see your name on a ballot for a seat on SGA for the year of 2005-2006. You seem to have a lot to say about this school and its organizations like SGA, so do something about it. Create the changes you seem to think this institution so desperately needs by coming out from hiding behind that pen of yours. I'll see you at election time.

- Eddie Paris
Class of 2006
Legislative Secretary, SGA

To the Editor:

Dear Nicole Leblanc,

While reading your review of the Starting Line concert in New Haven, I realized that your article contained many interesting claims. The one that stuck out the most was your comment regarding Further Seems Forever's vocalist, Jason Gleason.

First off, you must have been talking about a different band because Jason left FSF in March of 2004. The "45-year-old man with a receding hairline," you so thoughtfully referred to is Jon Bunch, former singer from the band Sensefield. He replaced Gleason last summer and filled in for the album, "Hide Nothing," which came out this past August. He has been with them since, basically acting like the glue, keeping together a seriously talented band that wanted to call it quits when Jason left.

The comments regarding his appearance were completely unnecessary. Just because he might need some Rogaine doesn't take away from the fact that he is an amazing singer. What's next? That Thursday's Geoff Rickley needs braces or Hopesfall shouldn't have gotten haircuts? If you are a fan, listen to the music. That's what bands like FSF are around for, rocking your socks off. I'm sure they didn't point out who in the crowd had a bad dye job.

Just because you learned that Chris Carabba used to front the band doesn't make you the Ben Stein of emo.

Though I am glad they made a new fan, next time you should listen to the music instead of staring at a baldspot.

- Jon Mitchell
Class of 2006

To the Editor:

I am deeply troubled by David Pageau's recent article "Cutting the Fat Out of Westfield's Faculty." As an alum of Westfield State College, I find that allegedly inferior faculty members have more than adequately prepared me for working in the National Park Service and perusing post-baccalaureate education. In his juvenile character defamations of Westfield State faculty, Mr. Pageau seems to have forgotten that personality conflicts can be expected throughout our lives and that they must be handled with maturity and respect. He has overlooked the fact that, whether we like them or not, college faculty are experts in their fields and that it is the student's responsibility to themselves to get the most out of every course regardless or whether or not she or he personally likes the professor. The only true insult to Westfield State is that the Campus Voice provides a venue for such infantile rubbish to masquerade as a genuine op-ed.

- David Lucander
Class of 2003

Keepin' it in the family

"SO IT GOES"
BY EMILY ENGEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Everyone knows I'm a big advocate for free speech and the reign of differing opinions, especially when it comes to this newspaper. It's wonderful when a little blood is being shed over these pages about disagreements and such, but most of the time, you hope that the person writing stays on subject and doesn't bring in outside comments just because they think it'll further their point (it usually doesn't). Two out of the four letters to the editor this week regarding Matthew Bernat's Editor's Desk on the removal of Shawn Lahair were thoughtful, for the most part, also guilty of being off subject. One in particular was personally insulting to me, and the others alluding to the notion that SGA is not a clique of sorts.

Let me clear something up for all of you. Writing a hard news story and writing op-ed are two different things. I wasted a lot of time explaining this to the WSC Boob Girls when they didn't like what I had to say about their chests. Op-Ed doesn't necessarily need specific facts (even though they're nice to have) to be written. An opinion is an opinion, all journalistic integrity aside.

Okay, with that said ...

Not that I care too much about what goes on behind the doors of SGA, who they kick out or bring in and all. It all seems rather irrelevant since the only job they seem to have is acting as administration's sock puppet. But when other issues are brought in when it was Mr. Bernat's column they should've been dealing with, something is wrong.

Ms. Ransom, your letter got off subject several times, in which you brought in the rest of The Voice staff. I find this interesting (like the sweater scenario), seeing as though you curse out Mr. Bernat because he brought up Mr. Norwood. But then you drag the entire staff and their work into this. Bottom line: If you don't like how something was written, then you shouldn't have ran away and quit the staff like you did. Taking the opportunity to slam The Voice staff in general for making minor errors in your Blue Key awards article, which, I might add, the only reason you care is solely because you were the ringleader, was not the appropriate time to do this. I seem to recall the paper not being perfect when you were on the staff, either. If you're going to take up an issue, then do it. Don't drag others into it like you insist is wrong.

Don't toot your horn so loud about your English and Journalism majors, either; I recall you receiving letters to the editor about the several mistakes in your reviews and articles. You weren't the best writer on staff.

Ms Ransom, you say that The Voice should deal with real issues on campus, and not "contrived controversy." I couldn't agree with you more. However, there's never a real issue with SGA, or anything even worthy of notifying the students of. I still don't know why our reporters go to meetings anymore. Alas, we are trying to do as you all had politely asked in the beginning of the year by covering these meetings.

So where were you the night of the debate between Professor Healy and Professor Engel on the subject of the Iraq War? Gee golly, that was a "real event." There were opinions all over the map, interesting ones to boot. Some of the most intelligent and thoughtful students on campus were in attendance. Maybe you should've been there if you're so interested in differing opinions and "real events."

Snotty and self-righteous responses only get you so far. Believe me, I know. Are those characteristics the SGA condones?

Okay, enough with that subject.

Mr. Mazeika and Mr. Paris' letters are a regurgitation of Ms. Ransom's letter, but with a clever add in. I almost fell out of my chair when reading the part that stated "no one fits in on the SGA." Are you kidding me? The way all of you cling to each other, I wouldn't be surprised if you all slept in a collective bed. I mean, after you all eat breakfast, lunch and dinner with each other at the DC, give campus tours together, walk around together, have meetings together, then have keg parties at the apartments together (I've seen the photos), when do you have time to be from "different walks of life?" That sounds a lot like a clique to me. All the clubs here are eliquish, that's just the way it is. And you know what, it's not necessarily a big deal if it's handled correctly. Don't kid yourselves!

Next.

As far as I'm concerned, Tim MacDonald was the only one with a truly thought-provoking letter that stayed on the subject and didn't demean the rest of the staff or defend the SGA clique. And by golly, he even added in some important facts too! Too bad he's graduating, the Exec Board could use a few more brains like his. And manners.

I am neither defending nor disagreeing Mr. Bernat's editorial. I don't know (or care to know) too much on the subject of attendance policies of the SGA. Granted, the layout was horrible, along with the grammar and punctuation. But of course, this isn't the point.

Lately we (The Voice) have been under a lot of fire regarding our columns and news stories that supposedly give Westfield a bad rep. It's also been called to our attention that some students and faculty feel as though they can't write letters because they will be attacked. But this edition of the paper should be a defense to those statements in itself. We never deny any student the right to voice their opinion on what we print. However, when I feel as though I'm being personally attacked, or the hard work of The Voice staff is being personally attacked, it would be pretty naive of the author of the letter to not expect opposition. That's the wonderful part about having a newspaper like ours; We aren't like everyone else.

Lastly, Jon Mitchell, I love you and your diehard commitment to Further Seems Forever. However, the Geoff Rickly needing braces comment? That was seriously uncalled for.

I think everyone needs a little R&R. It's been a long semester and it's only half over. Have a wonderful Spring Break.

'Til next time ...

The real fake news

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"
BY ASHLEY SPEICHER
VOICE COLUMNIST

Don't like the news stories being broadcast on your local television station? Then create your own. That's what Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger did when he wanted to promote one of the issues being reviewed in recent hearings. And why use your own money when you have the taxpayers' money at your disposal? Schwarzenegger and company created a mock news story that was aired on more than 18 news stations statewide and promoted a proposal that would eliminate mandatory lunch breaks for workers. Although the entire video only cost $1,262 to produce, the governor decided the taxpayers should cover the bill.

The video looks and sounds similar to any other news report you would see on the nightly news. But the problem with it is that the issue is presented in a one-sided view, and only the "benefits" are discussed. The narrator, a state employee and former television reporter, states, "If approved, the changes would clear up uncertainty in the business community and create a better working environment throughout the state." Its worker-friendly tone shows construction workers, waitresses, and farm workers and explains the positive outcome if the proposal is passed, saying workers can "eat when they are hungry, and not when the government tells them." The proposal was offered to reverse a law made by former Governor Davis that currently allows workers the right to an extra hour of pay if they don't receive a half-hour break within the first five hours of their shift. The downsides left out of the video is that the proposal would essentially allow employers to place in writing the need for a lunch break but then never provide them to its workers. It would also limit the amount of money an employee can sue for if they are prevented from taking their break. Presently, an employee can document and sue for lost pay for missing a lunch break as far back as three years. The proposal would limit that time period to only one year.

When the Democrats found out about the Schwarzenegger-approved video, the word propaganda was a common phrase used to describe the fake news story. Organized labor organizations denounced the video and claimed it gave too much leeway to employers and would result in many employees losing their lunch breaks. Rob Stutzman, the governor's communications director, defended the video as "just another press release".

Creating fake news is also a strategy supported by the Bush Administration. The recent "Gannongate" has caused controversy throughout the world of journalism. Apparently a reporter by the name of James Guckert used the alias Jeff Gannon to gain access to presidential press conferences and other media events. He obtained "day passes" for two years by signing in with his real name, date of birth, and social security number even though his name tag displayed his alias. This was unusual because reporters who gain access to such high level press conferences usually endure background checks and must go through a two-week process to simply gain a one-day pass. During numerous press conferences, Gannon was criticized for giving both the President and the press secretary "softball questions" that obviously supported the Bush agenda. It was then revealed that Gannon worked for Talon News, an online news source owned by the website GOPUSA. If that's not a conflict of interest, I don't know what is.

Speaking of conflict of interest, it seems that an organization backing the proposal in California has a lot to gain from its passage. The California Restaurant Association would benefit greatly if the proposal became law. Is it a coincidence that the Association also donated $21,000 to Schwarzenegger's campaign? Creating a fake news story is just a part of the game to achieve whatever political goals the money denotes.

A few minor points worth mentioning

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Two weeks ago The Voice ran a letter from Professor Holford-Diana, in which she suggested a series of topics for discussion, questions that should be considered, regarding sexuality and college students. Of those questions, one was aimed directly and specifically at my demographic: "If you are a man, what are you willing to do to help reduce rape and sexual assault among college students?"

Having this public forum, I thought I'd directly answer the question to the best of my ability. To help reduce rape and sexual assault among college students, I will immediate do the following:

Not rape anyone. Is there anything more I should add to this?

In addition, another question caught my attention: "Do you feel comfortable insisting on a man using a condom during sex?" I couldn't help but notice that there was no analogous question reflecting on women, such as "Do you ever worry about being deceived by a woman who claims to be using oral contraceptives?" or "Do you ever worry about a woman taking offense at your using a condom?" Sure this might seem like splitting hairs, but questions do more than call for a response. They set a norm, and imply a great deal by what is and is not asked. By having an entire list of questions either neutral, or implying that men, and men alone, are sexually irresponsible predators, we create a "intimidating, hostile setting" that's far from conducive to healthy, open discussion.

Another question she gave, which pointed out a very real double standard, involved how men with multiple partners are viewed as compared to how women are viewed. This is the old slut/stud double standard, and I agree, it sucks. Once again, in the interest of starting off a little more objective and even handed, I'd hope to include "If a man and a woman of the same age have both not had sex, do you assume it's for different reasons?" on the list of questions.

Also, my interest was piqued at that famous "1 in 4 college women are victims of rape or attempted rape" statistic. For what it's worth, I thought everyone should know that about three-quarters of the above-indicated rape victims didn't think they'd been raped/almost raped.

"And, for the record, one in ten rape victims are male (that's just counting the few who actually report it), and such victims are usually at a higher risk of STI infection than their female counterparts."

And, for the record, one in ten rape victims are male (that's just counting the few who actually report it), and such victims are usually at a higher risk of STI infection than their female counterparts. In addition, while female rape is considered a tragedy, and mocking of its victims tasteless, male rape is a nigh-universal punch line. Drop the soap, anyone? Rape is a serious threat for everyone, not just women.

These issues aside, I liked Professor Holford-Diana's letter. She has my condolences on the creepiness inherent in seeing your name on a survey of the sort posted on V-day, and the rest of her letter was a sincere call to a subject that is still tragically somewhat taboo. I appreciate the point she was driving towards, but I believe that if we are to get into a discussion, we should start on even footing.

Call me Miss Congeniality

"TO THE POINT"
BY HALEY PATON
VOICE COLUMNIST

Lately in this paper there's been a lot of talk relating to gender: Needing a new word instead of "he/she," monogamy. Hell, if you want to think way back to last semester, what about the girls baring their breasts for the Red Sox? And let's not forget how many times we've heard about how the media objectifies women.

Where do I even begin?

How about with language.

Okay, as a woman, I'll be perfectly honest. I don't care if a sentence refers to what could be anyone as "he." I almost got into an argument with a male communications dept. professor over the "he/she" thing. But, to go with a Mae West quote (look her up) "Brains are an asset---if you hide them;" the argument wasn't worth my time. I think people in general, women and men, know when it's best to just not bother arguing. To take another quote to prove my point, how about this one from Chris Rock?

"Stupid people try to impress smart people. Smart people just do what they do."

Let me explain.

I don't argue that the feminist movement just a few decades ago wasn't a good idea. And I used my right to vote this November, a right that brave women in another century had to fight for me to get. Why do I not care about the language debate? Because why argue about this when you could be out kickboxing or playing catch, or God-forbid, cheerleading? Are the male-cheerleaders battling oppression? That's a topic for another day.

I see it as a dual meaning being understood. Some argue that language shapes thought. Well, in a way I suppose that is true. In German, what we English-speaking Americans try to dress-up and appealingly call a "vacuum cleaner" translates in their language to "dust sucker." Not as pretty to our advertising-conscious ears, is it?

In Spanish, everyday words have gender. Por que? I have no idea. But what makes a chair ("silla," pronounced "see-ya"), feminine, and a pen ("boligrofo"), masculine? Extreme feminists from our country would argue that this is because Spanish-speakers feel that women are supposed to sit around the house while men do business.

So what does all of this mean? Maybe that the languages we speak are archaic and were developed long before any of these issues were considered? If people can't change their thoughts with the times simply because language tells them to do otherwise (if it even does), then language is not their problem. I'm not the first to say this, but I think that sometimes it's easier for people to focus on a minor issue such as language rather than deal with the bigger picture.

And don't even get me started on euphemisms.

Okay, so "wife-beating" doesn't apply to any men getting beat out there by their significant-others. But "spousal abuse?" Is that a new fragrance? Obsession. Spousal abuse. Calvin Klein.

How about "Spouse-beating?" That works for me. Stealing all these points from social commentator and comedian Bill Mahr, why clean up something that shouldn't sound less threatening?

Language is just a tool that we use to shape thought by using our intellect to put words together. A word is like a gun, it's not bad by itself; it's what it's used for.

A last word about cheerleaders and feminism.

I have to be honest, and admit that I used to hate those kinds of girls. They didn't even have to be cheerleaders. You know what I mean. And then I noticed that the options for women right now seem to be 1) show your independence by being a slut (as addressed in the monogamy column) or 2) be an unfeminine, man-hating extreme-feminist (how ironic),... and that some of these kinds of girls I used to not like do neither.

Smart people just do what they do.

Arts & Entertainment

No Address, Theory of a Deadman, and Shinedown rock the Webster Theatre... Hard

By Peter Norwood
A&E Editor

HARTFORD-On Thursday, February, 24, Lauren Nicolosi, Jessica Spano and I all headed to Hartford to see Shinedown perform along with No Address and Theory of a Deadman. This would turn out to be the night of my life. First off, when we entered Hartford, we were making good time, following those damn Map Quest directions. It did not take long for the detours to work against our good timing and send us in a few circles through downtown Hartford. By 6:30 p.m. I was starting to freak out, considering we were supposed to start our interview with Shinedown at that time.

We called up the band's tour manager, and he told us to go ahead with the No Address interview and give him a call after it was done. Once again, the good graces of a tour manager had soothed my nerves, at least to some degree. It was kind of ironic that we had to flag down an officer of the law in order to give us directions to the Webster (at least I won't be getting lost next time).

We got to the Webster at quarter of seven and I began calling the tour manager for No Address. I finally got a hold of him and he brought me down to the dressing room to conduct the interview. Finally, the night was starting to progress a little more smoothly. After the interview, we headed upstairs to see the show. Now, I had received a copy of the No Address album a week before the show and had not expected much (there's that musical pessimism again). However, I was highly impressed with the material on their album and I was just as excited to see them as I was to see Shinedown by the time the day came around.

Ben Lauren, the charismatic front man of No Address, came on to the stage, beer and cigarette in hand (man, I wish these artists would stop having cigarettes on stage while I am fiending). They performed a few songs from their album, including their single "When I'm Gone (Sadie)" and another (soon to be) smash hit, called "Perfect." Their set was pretty good, and the crowd seemed pleased. For more on No Address, check out the interview, coming in next week's paper. Oh yes, and the album I mentioned earlier, "Time Doesn't Notice" will be released on April 12, in the spring.

Unfortunately, we missed most of Theory of a Deadman's set (at least we have a good excuse; we were downstairs interviewing Jasin Todd, of Shinedown). From what I did hear, the music sounded pretty good. Also looking around the crowd, I noticed that many of the audience members were rocking out pretty nicely.

Much can be said about the set that Shinedown performed. First of all, let me just say: Oh my God. It was absolutely amazing. The lights went off after they were announced by Craig the Porn star of WCCC (Hartford's independent radio, 106.9 in case you want to check it out). When they came back on, they came on in a blaze of multi-colored, flashing lights. The music started pretty instantly, and right away I found myself rocking out to the music.

I said about the last show that I went to that the feeling of singing (or screaming) along with one of your favorite bands is amazing. This still holds absolutely true. It may be important to note that every time I hear Shinedown on the radio now, I am hit with a sort of depression. Why did that night ever have to end? It did, though, so the least I can do is encourage all of you to GET OUT AND GO SEE SOME LIVE MUSIC!

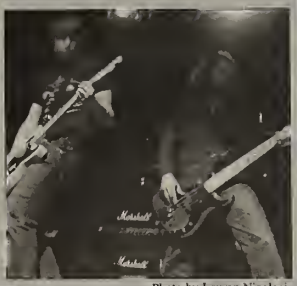
I remember Jessie telling me at one point that the acoustic quality in the Webster was unusually superb. Now, the Webster is the only place I have gone to see any live music, so I have no basis for comparison, but I know that every band that plays up there sounds excellent in terms of comprehension. Check the acoustics out for yourself sometime.

Let me return to the Shinedown performance. It seems that everything was right with their performance that night. From the way Brent's shadow hung ominously on the wall, to the acoustic performance of "Simple Man," originally performed by Lynyrd Skynyrd, everything seemed to snap together perfectly. Brent got the crowd pumped up half way through the show, telling them he wanted to see a "tornado."

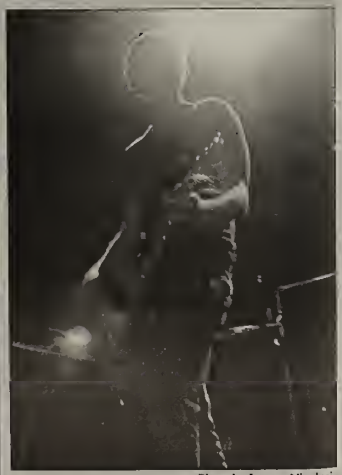
"Everyone in here is going to meet everyone else," he said. This I found to be pretty tempting; the music had not only caused me to rock out with my, well you know, but it had also caused this strange rush of adrenaline to pump energy into me.

I hadn't slept the night before the concert and I had feared that I would be tired that night because of it, but I was dead wrong. With such powerful music being performed with such emotion, such intensity, there would be no way for anyone to feel tired. The on-stage chemistry that the band had was perfect, adding to the quality of the performance. If anyone on this campus has any sense of good music, I recommend you get yourself a Shinedown album, study up on the lyrics, and head out to one of their concerts to lose yourself (and possibly your voice too, I know I did for a couple days). Be sure to check out the interviews with No Address (coming next week) and Jasin Todd of Shinedown (on page 12). Until next time people, keep rocking.

-Photo by Pete Norwood



-Photo by Lauren Nicolosi



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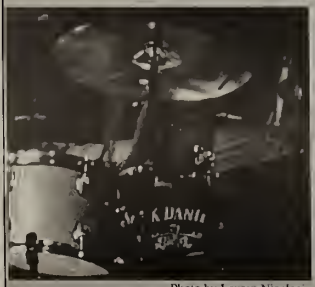
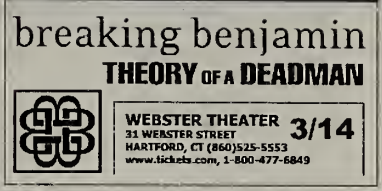


-Photo by Lauren Nicolosi

-Photo by Pete Norwood

Going clockwise from top left:
Ben Lauren; Phil Moreton aod Bill Donaldson; Phil Moreton (again, he's just so photogenic!); Justin Long; and Randy Lane. All photos taken of No Address at their show at the Webster on February 24, 2005.

Interesting in writing a music review?
E-mail us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com



Poetry Corner

Hey mister, what the hell is wrong with you?
The grass is always greener, as I'm sure that you've found.
When you tried to build me up with all the wrong words, all it did was kill me.
So fold me up and put me back in the place where you used to keep your heart.
You are here waiting for me to break but I am not changing
So I will kick and beat my wrists together.
Now I could care less which agony or fire you're thrown to.
And I won't listen to messages, left by someone who calls up and says "Hello there, the angel from my nightmare."
Sink your teeth into me please
And could you tell me the next time you're choking?
Now old cassettes and cigarettes will be the ones to save you.
To write this down is means to reconcile.
Your future hasn't been written yet.
No one's has.

-The Sellouts, The Get Up Kids, The Juliana Theory, Thursday, Home Grown, Saves the Day, Unsung Zeros, Weezer, Blink182, Mae, Something Corporate and Back to the Future-

One Fine Day

Morning Dew
Caresses my face.
A new day dawns
and I am content.

Flowers bloom and bees buzz.
What's with all this fuzz?
People who are sad
don't depress me.

They're all liars
and should be ignored.

-Just Tyler-

Million Dollar Baby, Aviator, among those rakin' in the Oscars

BY DAN COOPER
VOICE REPORTER

Clint Eastwood's powerful boxing drama, *Million Dollar Baby*, was the big winner at the 77th Academy Awards handed out February 27th. The film walked away with four awards, including Best Picture and Best Director for Eastwood.

Despite the four awards, Martin Scorsese's epic biopic *The Aviator* walked away with five Oscars, though it lost the major awards to Eastwood.

The Aviator won Oscars for cinematography, costume design, art direction, editing, and best supporting actress for Cate Blanchett's uncanny portrayal of Katharine Hepburn.

Blanchett thanked the woman she portrayed during her acceptance speech, stating "the longevity of her career, I think, is inspiring to everyone." Blanchett's win was the only major award that *The Aviator* received.

The wins for Eastwood in the Director and Picture categories meant more heartbreak for the legendary Scorsese. Scorsese lost in the Best Director category for the fifth time in his career, joining the likes of such legends as Alfred Hitchcock and Robert Altman as five-time losers.

Eastwood, with his second Best Director trophy, now joins the likes of Steven Soielbere. Milos Stone as two-time winners.

Million Dollor Boby also brought Hilary Swank her second Oscar for Best Actress for her ineredible portrayal of Maggie Fitzgerald. Swank won in 1999 for *Boys Don't Cry*, beating Annette Bening. She beat Bening yet again, though this time she was the favorite.

Morgan Freeman was the other winner from *Baby*, taking home Best Supporting Actor for his performance as an ex-boxer. This marked the first time Freeman has ever won an Oscar, though he has been considered one of the finest

Jamie Foxx, as was expected, took home Best Actor for his incredible performance as Ray Charles in *Ray*. Foxx gave a heartfelt acceptance speech, shedding tears as he described how his grandmother was his first acting teacher. This marked only the second time in the 77 year history of the Academy Awards that two black actors have taken home acting Oscars on the same night.

The Incredibles took home the Oscar for Best Animated Feature, making it two wins in a row for Pixar Animation Studios. *The Incredibles* beat out *Shrek 2* and *Shork Tale*.

The Best Original/Adapted Screenplay Oscars went to a couple of well-done independent features. Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor won for adapting the novel *Sideways* into a critical favorite, while Charlie Kaufman won his first Oscar for the love story *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

Sidney Lumet, the acclaimed director of such films as *Dog Doy Afternoon*, *Network*, *12 Angry Men*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*, was the recipient of this year's Honorary Oscar. Lumet, like Scorsese, has never won a competitive Oscar. In his acceptance speech, Lumet thanked the one thing that meant more to him than anything else. Lumet said, "What I guess it comes down to, I'd like to thank the movies. I know that sounds general. But it's very real to me. I've got the best job in the best profession in the world. So, I just want to thank all of it."

This year's race was one of the most exciting in years. The Oscars yet again dealt heartbreak to the great Martin Scorsese and confirmed that Clint Eastwood has reemerged as one of the great directors of our time.

-File photo

The Aviator receives several Oscars itself.

The rise and fall of the rock empire

PETER NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

On Thursday, February 24, Shinedown played along with No Address and Theory of a Deadman at the Webster Theatre in Hartford, Conn. The Webster Theatre was kind enough as to set us up with an interview with Shinedown and No Address. From Shinedown we interviewed Jasin Todd. For those who are not entirely familiar with Shinedown, they are responsible for such hits as ".45," "Fly From The Inside," and "Burning Bright." These songs can be heard pretty frequently on the various local rock stations, including: Lazer 99.3, 107.3 WAAF, and 106.9 WCCC. The following is an account the interview with Jasin Todd:

Lauren Nicolosi, Jessica Spano, and I left South Lot to head to the interview in good spirits. We got directions from MapQuest.com and assumed we would make it to the Webster in time for our two interviews. Well, damn the downtown detours that would take us around Hartford in a figure eight for about half-an-hour.

When the time came to call the tour manager, I did. Unfortunately, I had to tell them him that we were lost and getting directions from a local officer of the law. Imagine that. Luckily, the tour manager was understanding of our situation and though the guys were supposed to be doing some sort of meet-and-greet, we were set up with the band's guitarist, Jasin Todd. We met him downstairs in the dressing room area.

It looked pretty bleak, all the walls having been decorated with graffiti most likely left by the different bands who have played at the venue. In the room where we conducted the interview, there was some beat-up looking furniture.

Jessie had been nervous for a whole week before the show, trying to come up with fitting questions she should ask Shinedown, one of her favorite bands. The song ".45" had been one of the songs that played almost continually every time I went into her room to ask her how she was doing. That night, she finally got to ask Jasin what ".45" meant to the band. He talked about how the band remains pretty distant from each other. Of Brent Smith the bands lead vocalist, Jasin said, "he says its a metaphor for the world. Everybody knows life can be shit, you know?" The thing is, he asked, "How do you plan to pull yourself out of it?" He went on to explain that a lot of people simply take the song the wrong way. This happens because of the lyrics to the songs, so far as I can tell: *"I'm staring down the barrel of a .45, swimming through the ashes of another life. There is no real reason to accept the way things have changed, staring down the barrel of a .45"* "The .45 can be anything," he explained, "drugs, parties, if you're picked on, even if you think you're cool. You just have to pick yourself up and move on."

-Photo by Lauren Nicolosi

Brent and the band put their all into the show at the Webster, and it showed!

Next it was my turn to ask a question. I asked him why the album "Leave a Whisper" seemed to have a dark theme despite some of the more upbeat lyrics. I wanted to know if they aimed to sound dark or if it was just kind of a side effect of their creativity. "I think its more that every person in the band is completely different." He cited how they all drew their influences from different types of music growing up. "I listened to death metal growing up," he told us, "I listened to Def Leppard, Blind Melon..., hippie music, you know, I'm all fucked up."

"Brent listened to soul pop, you know, he's a soul singer." He said that the band members' diverse backgrounds are what makes the music the way it is.

Jasin told us about Shinedown's lack of press coverage when we asked him about how their music affected the fans. "We're not on TV, we have no press," he explained. He expressed confusion at how it was that they were able to sell out almost all of the venues they played at. "They never see our videos, we never even get to make videos. I don't know what that is, you know, the way we look or what. They think we're ugly and shit or whatever, cause we are." He continued to talk about their devotion to the fans.

"We're up there dying every night. On stage, its like a full-on battle." Later that night, he would prove this statement to be true. One of the many things that can be said for Shinedown is that they have an incredible stage presence.

"Every night we come out and hang out with them," he said of his fans. "And people are like, why do you do that?" He went on to state "what are we without them [the fans]?"

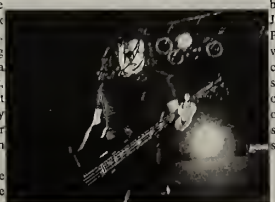
I have often wondered what would happen if I went to one of these interviews and the band members were jerks. Apparently Jasin had experienced this in the past.

"A lot of people I don't think you really want to find out about. I know, I've been let down by some of my heroes. Sometimes I wish I never met 'em." I could only imagine what he must mean, when he talked about wishing he could have just preserved the image he had of his heroes in his head. "I just try never to be like that."

On making it into the rock world, Jasin says, "We never considered making it, you know, because what's making it?" He granted us the ultimate compliment when he said the following: "You guys being here right now is cool for us... To know that you actually care enough to come and have questions prepared." Now, let me just say this. It was a complete honor for us to be in Jasin's presence. I suppose I can see why they would be honored by our presence, but these are my dreams coming true, being able to interview the creators of the music I love.

"We are humble, because this shit could end tomorrow just like it could for our friends and family and for you guys and the people reading this. Shit just goes down in life."

As for the notion that these the members of Shinedown could be considered rockstars? "I would have to question if we really are. There are no more rock stars, all the rock stars are rappers now." The last rock stars (who actually rocked) that Jasin cited were members of such bands as Led Zeppelin and Skynyrd. "No one's scared of rock anymore," he said, "People used to be scared that Skynyrd would kick your ass in a bar or Jimmy Paige would cast a spell on you or some shit."



-Photo by Lauren Nicolosi

A photo of Brad throwing his art out to the crowd.

-Photo by Pete Norwood

From left to right: Lauren Nicolosi, Jasin Todd, and Jessie Spano.

Speaking of Skynyrd, Shinedown is also the band (well, specifically Brent and Jasin) who redid the song "Simple Man." He couldn't remember the first time he had ever heard the song, but he assured me that, "the doctors were playing it in the delivery room."

So how did the illustrious Mistress Carrie (of the afforementioned WAAF) get them to cover the song? "We just did it. it was never a planned thing, the label's making us put it on the record. It's sweet but people are thinking we're just trying to rip off Skynyrd."

And what did the song "Simple Man," by Lynyrd Skynyrd mean to Jasin at the time that he first heard it? "It's just the band and how cool they look. Like there's not one pretty dude in the band, just a bunch of badass looking guys. I could tell from Jasin's enthusiasm that he truly had admired Skynyrd in their heyday. Wow, he must feel so honored to play their music at all of their shows, right? Think again. "It hurts to play it, I don't think we're going to play it on our next tour. Its just my family, my wife, you know? She's Ronnie's daughter, and we have a daughter, a four-and-a-half year old. So every fucking time I have to play the song the first thing that pops into my mind is her. Now, three days after we played that hole in Columbus, Dimebag got shot, so we dedicate it to him now. So now I have to think about that every night. I'm just fucked up thinking about it." My intentions were innocent enough, but boy did I feel guilty for asking about that song.

On the brighter side of things, we discussed the band's time off, next. "March 5 is our last day. they're going to give us like three weeks off." During that time, they will have time to go home to Tallahassee, Florida. "We've got time to figure out what happened out here in 22 months. It's just been a whirlwind." Almost two years on the road? I would think "whirlwind" would be an accurate description for that length a tour, don't you?

When they go on tour again they will try their best to avoid doing a "New York, Los Angeles thing." Jasin talked about the band's diffieulties playing inner-city venues. "We can go an hour outside of New York City and sell a place out, but we get inside the city, it's all hipsters [those who love the hip hop, not hippies]."

On album sales, Jasin cites a lack of press being partially responsible for their lack of revenue. "All we have is radio press and touring. That's how we sell out shows, its not really album sales."

"We finally sold 800,000 records; people probably think we sold double platinum and all this shit, its not like that." He went on to say "We just sold 800,000 records, Eminem did that in a week." While he admits that he likes rap, "it has a good beat," I feel that the rap world is stealing the rock world's thunder. Its all good to the boys of Shinedown though. "We're still just having fun."

-Well, people, this has been my first time actually writing something up on an interview, so please feel free to tell me if you like it. Email me with any suggestions, comments or questions. I'll be happy to get back to you (the email is Pete_Norwood@hotmail.com). I would like to thank my photographer, Lauren Nicolosi, my co-interviewer, Jessie Spano, Jasin Todd (it was a pleasure, man), Ben Wu, and the rest of the band (my Mom loves the autographed press photo).

Vaso, Chapin First Teamers

Owls Named All-Conference

Four Westfield State players were named to the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference (MASCAC) all-conference basketball teams that were released this week.

First-team selections were Vaso Jaukovic and Amanda Chapin, both of whom were second-team picks in 2004. Melissa Macchi was a second team all conference selection and also was named the MASCAC women's Rookie of the Year. On the men's side, Tony Collier shared Rookie of the Year honors with Bridgewater's Tom Cuddihy.

Jaukovic, a graduate student from Serbia & Montenegro, led the Owls' balanced attack in scoring (12.9 points per game) and was second in rebounding (6.6). The 6-7 center ranked first for the Owls and third in the MASCAC in assists (3.2) and was 10th in the conference in steals (1.4).

Jaukovic finished his collegiate career with 1,016 points, which ranks 16th on the Westfield men's basketball all-time list.

Chapin had a stellar junior season, leading the Owls in scoring (12.4 point per game) and rebounding (12.3). The Westfield native (Suffield Academy) ranked fourth in conference scoring and dominated in rebounding, where she outpaced her nearest MASCAC competitor by nearly four rebounds per game.

The hustling 5-9 forward ranks eighth nationally in NCAA Division III in rebounds per game. She set a school season record for rebounds per game and tied a school record for most rebounds in a single game (22).

Macchi, a freshman point guard from Peabody, posted some impressive numbers. She was Westfield's second leading scorer (9.7) and ranked first in the conference in assists (4.3), second in 3-point shooting percentage (.381), third in steals (2.6) and fifth in field goal shooting percentage (.436).

Collier, a 6-2 guard from Colchester, Vt., ranked second on the team and 15th in the MASCAC in scoring, averaging 11.4 points per game. Collier only started nine games, but he was a key player off the bench, averaging 26 minutes played per game and leading in the Owls in 3-point field goals made (22).

MASCAC Rookies of the Year: Tony "TC" Collier and Melissa Macchi

Westfield State junior David Richardson sets the high jump bar at 6-8, a personal best height that he cleared earlier this season. The Beverly native, who is 5-9 tall, won the New England Division 3 championship with a winning height of 6-7. He finished fourth in the All New England finals at the same height and just missed clearing 6-9. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Salem Survives Westfield Rally

SALEM – Salem State survived a furious second-half comeback by Westfield State for an 81-74 victory in the Mass. State Conference tournament semifinals.

The Vikings, 24-3, went on to bout Framingham in the championship game. Westfield finishes 12-12.

Salem led by 17 points, 45-28, at halftime as it outshot the Owls, 5-0, from 3-point range and dominated the inside led by senior shot blocking sensation Ifesinachi Anosike of Staten Island, N.Y. The 6-8 center finished with 18 points, 17 rebounds and five rejections.

But Westfield quickly cut into the large lead at the start of the second half as the Owls begin hitting their treys and Anosike picked up his third foul.

The Owls went on a 26-7 run in the first nine minutes of the second half to stun the large and boisterous Salem crowd. Westfield senior Vaso Jaukovic tied the score, 52-52, by draining a three from the top of the key with 11:40 remaining. Jaukovic then gave Westfield the lead 30 seconds later with a driving layup down the lane.

With the score tied at 59-all, Salem junior forward Shawn Bloom (Springfield/Minnechaug High School) scored seven straight points over a two-minute stretch to give the Vikings a 66-59 lead with 6:06 remaining. The Owls closed to within two points, 68-66, with 3:11 remaining, but the Vikings got the ball inside to their big guy Anosike for two easy buckets for a 72-66 lead. Salem made nine free throws in the final two minutes.

Senior guard Allen Reid (Southbridge) scored a game-high for the Vikings, including a perfect 12-for-12 from the foul line. Bloom finished with 16 points, including his seven during the crucial second-half stretch.

Sophomore guard Gavin Illangakoon (Ellington, CT) led Westfield's balanced scoring with 16 points. Sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin scored 15 points, all in the first half. Ogboin was experiencing breathing difficulties at halftime and did not play in the second half. Westfield only made one substitution in the second half, a three-minute stretch by James Ogbunize.

The Owls were 8-for-13 from 3-point range in the second half after being shut out in the first half (0-for-9). Tony Collier (12 points), Jaukovic (11), Mike Jurkowski (10) and Steve Martins (8) were Westfield's other top scorers.

The Westfield State College baseball team held a clinic for area youth in the Woodward Center during February school vacation week. The baseball team is scheduled to play 15 games in Port Charlotte, Fla., during the college's spring break. The Westfield State softball team will be stationed in Fort Myers, Fla., the spring training home of the World Champion Boston Red Sox. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Owls Earn Honors At All New Englands

BOSTON – Westfield State College's Tessa Donoghue, David Richardson and Peter King continued their fine indoor track and field seasons by earning All New England honors at the All New England championships held Feb. 26 at Boston University.

Competing against the best New England athletes in Divisions I, II and III, Donoghue registered a quasi hat trick by placing third in three events: the long, triple and high jumps.

The Springfield Cathedral graduate cleared 5-5 in the high jump, trailing Wheaton's Jen Harlow (5-5 3/4) and Mt. Holyoke's Jen Hawkes (5-5). The talented senior went 18-8 in the long jump, finishing behind U-Conn's Edwina Clark (19-3/4) and Boston University's Tahari James (18-9 3/4). Donoghue's triple jump of 39-1 was only surpassed by U-Conn's Tamara Highsmith (40-3 1/2) and James (39-2 1/2).

"Tessa again performed well against the top flight competition," said head coach Sean O'Brien, who noted that she had personal indoor bests in the long and triple jumps.

In the men's high jump, Richardson finished fourth by clearing 6-7. The 5-9 junior from Beverly cleared the same height to win the New England Division III championship on Feb. 19. Southern Connecticut's Ivan Schmidt won the high jump (6-11), followed by the University of Rhode Island's Evan Lima (6-9) and Coast Guard's Zach Gayer (6-9).

"David just missed clearing 6-9," said O'Brien. "He clipped the bar with his heel on the way down."

King, a senior from Athol, placed sixth in the shot put with a heave of 51-5. Also competing from Westfield was junior Shawn McCorquodale of Athol, who placed 15th in long jump (20-5).

Massachusetts State Conference
Smith Cup Standings
(Following Winter Sports)

Place	College	Points
1.	Salem State	17
2.	Worcester State	16
3.	Westfield State	15
3.	Framingham State	15
5.	Bridgewater State	14
6.	Fitchburg State	12
7.	Mass. Maritime	5
8.	Mass. College	0

Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:
-Men & Women's Dodgeball
-Men & Women's 5-5

Outdoor soccer playoffs wll be played on the turf as soon as SNOW DISAPPEARS!! So get your teams ready!

BENTLEY BILLIARDS (Downtown) & THE WSC INTRAMURALS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

THE WSC BILLIARDS LEAGUE

Beginning March 2cnd for eight straight Wednesdays (excluding spring break week)
Practice begins at 6p.m.
League play begins at 7p.m.

4-8 people per team
Co-Ed teams

There's a free shuttle from the Woodward Center to Bentley Billiards and back. Pick-up time is at 6p.m.

THINK SPRING!

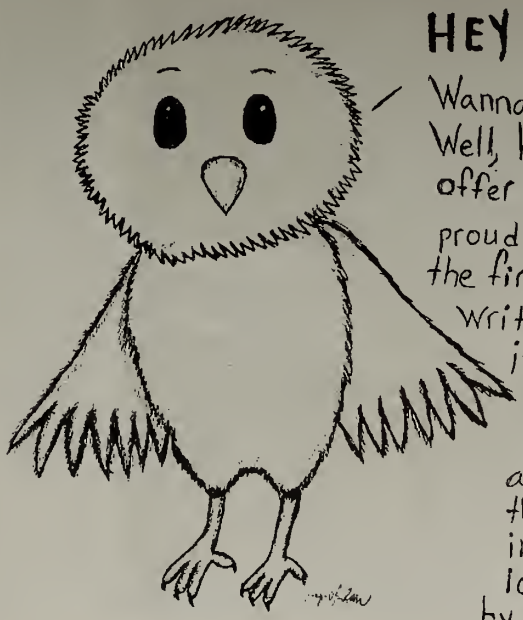
Start organizing your spring teams now:

Upcoming Events:	Rosters Due:
Floor Hockey (M+W)	March 2
Sport Trivia (M+W)	March 23
Softball (M+W)	March 23
Co-Ed Softball	March 23
Co-Ed Sand Volleyball	March 28
Ultimate Frisbee (M+W)	March 28
Home Run Derby (M+W)	April 27

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!



HEY YOU!

Wanna have some fun? Well, have I got an offer for you! I'm proud to announce the first ever, "You write it, I'll draw it" contest. That's right, you give me the words, and I'll draw the pictures. Turn in your name and ideas to "The Voice" by March 15th. Dialogs and single sentences wanted. Chosen ones will appear in the "C'est la Vie" comic. There is no entry limit, so submit away!

-Photo by Lisandra Billings

Jacklyn McLaughlin giggles as friend and future roommate, Tiffany Puliafico, feeds her a chcolate covered grape at last Wednesday's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory night. Held in the Ely Main Lounge, the evening featured a chocolate fountain complete with many varieties of fruit as well as cooies and Rice Crispy treats. Judging from the smiles on their faces, the night must have been a big hit!

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

Searching for love? Companionship? Friendship? The Voice is here to help! Drop all personals in our box in the Ely Main Lounge and we'll publish them in the paper. Who knows, you could meet that special person you've been searching for all your life...

March- The Month Celebrating Women

Mon 3/07	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	Film: "Ten" - EML - 5:00pm Photo Exhibit - EML/Lobby - 8am-11pm	Safe Passages: Risk Reduction & Safety in Everyday Life - SBH - 11:30am-12:20pm
Tue 3/08	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm "My Love, My Love, or, A Peasant Girl" - Bates 111 - 9:45am/11:15am	Photo Exhibit - EML - 8am-11pm Clothesline Project - EML - 8am-11pm
Wed 3/09	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm Photo Exhibit - EML/Lobby - 8am-11pm	Clothesline Project - EML - 8am-11pm
Thurs 3/10	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	"My Love, My Love, or, A Peasant Girl" - Bates 111 - 9:45am/11:15am	
Fri 3/11	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	Brown Bag BINGO - 11pm - EML	
Sat 3/12	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight		
Sun 3/13	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm MTG Performance - 7:30 pm - DA		

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X March 7, 2005 Issue XIX

What is making this man so angry? Find out on pg. 1

Month Celebrating Women kicks off with Vagina Monologues pg. 1

- Mike Coughlin

The Voice gets reamed out by SGA...again. pg. 9

What makes WSC dodgeball so extreme? pg. 1

In the Mood for a Lobster Dinner?

by Candace MacDonald

E News

March 22, 2005
Westfield State College
Environmental Science Program
Environmental Analysis Class
Environmental Awareness Project

It may be pricier than you will expect. In recent years shell disease has come in contact with 30% of lobsters along the east coast.

What is *Shell Disease* and Why is it a problem?

Shell disease is the spread of bacteria to crustaceans eroding their shells. The disease does not affect the lobster's meat, but gives the lobsters shell an unsightly appearance making the lobster impossible to sell whole. In extreme cases, the disease can cause the shell to rot completely, killing the lobster before it even matures. This is a problem because it affects fishermen and the economy. By catching less lobster each year to be bought and sold, the price of lobsters increases. In Rhode Island in 1999, the lobster industry generated $30 million and employed 425 fishermen, but four years later the lobster industry produced just $16.7 million and employed 279.

How does it work?

The cause of shell disease is chitinolytic bacteria, which eat a cellulose-like substance in lobster shells called chitin. The chitin makes the layers of a lobster's shell that protects the lobster from bacteria. It is composed of by a layer of proteins and fats. These protective layers can be corroded when the chitinolytic bacteria produces protease and lipase enzymes that attach to the lobster and then begin to infiltrate inward. The lobster tries to ward off the bacteria by generating new shell-like layers or molting. During this reconstruction process the lobster is at a weakened state and is further susceptible to more bacteria and predators.

Why does it happen?

Unfortunately no one knows why this bacteria is spreading as it is. Theories vary but one theory is that industries are polluting waste into waterways. This waste promotes the growth of bacteria caused from certain chemicals called alkylphenols that are being released from industries. This triggers the shell disease. Most speculations agree that both warm coastal waters and some sort of pollution has something to do with the outbreaks. One thing is certain, shell disease is growing, from mostly being

confined to Buzzards Bay in 1999, to spreading northward to Cape Anne, in Maine, and in Boston Harbor. Fisherman may have to work a little harder to compensate for their losses, but are eating well doing so, bringing home the unattractive, infected lobsters.

To learn more about shell disease check out these websites:
http://www.fishresearch.org/Articles/2003/01/shell_disease.asp

http://www.lobsterscience.ca/articles/fact/shelldisease.pdf

Questions or comments concerning this newsletter? Drop us an email at: environmentalanalysis@wsc.ma.edu. The thoughts and comments expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Westfield State College or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
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For More Information on this, the Environmental Science Program, and other environmental topics at Westfield State College, check out our website at www.wsc.ma.edu/environmentalscience/

E News

March 22, 2005
Westfield State College
Environmental Science Program
Environmental Analysis Class

Lead-Based Paint, is it affecting your workplace?

By: Chris Visone

Lead-based paint (LBP) is widespread in U.S. housing. It is defined by greater than or equal to 1 milligram lead per square meter [mg/cm^2]. It has been estimated that 74 percent of privately owned homes built before 1980 (57 million units) have LBP. Nearly 4 million of those units house young children and have peeling paint or excessive lead-containing dust. A recent EPA national survey estimated that 4.4 percent of U.S. children aged 1–5 years, or about 930,000 children, have elevated blood lead level (BLL) for childhood lead exposure.

In 1993, OSHA estimated that each year more than 45,000 abatement workers are exposed to lead during lead abatement and in-place management projects in public and private housing. As national efforts to reduce residential lead hazards progress, the number of workers exposed to lead during abatements and other lead hazard reduction activities may increase. OSHA also estimated that approximately 180,000 workers annually are exposed to lead during residential remodeling and renovation.

Lead exposures vary significantly during residential lead abatement and renovation work. A study of lead abatement in a 1990 demonstration project found that exposures were highly variable for individual abatement methods, contractors, and housing units. Another study of LBP abatement workers found that lead exposures even varied significantly among work crews and individual workers performing the same tasks who were employed by a single contractor. This study found that lead exposures are generally low during both lead abatement and renovation work, but some tasks produce hazardous LBP exposures.

Selecting alternate, safer methods is one of the most effective ways to minimize worker exposures during residential lead abatement and renovation activities.

Torch burning and the use of power tools, such as sanders, are common LBP removal techniques during home renovation, even though they have been found to increase lead exposures to workers more than 200 times. In an LBP abatement demonstration project, these methods were expressly prohibited, and the maximum lead exposures were reduced by more than 90 percent.

Although it may not be effective in reducing lead exposures, dilution ventilation may be needed to prevent accumulation of hazardous gases or vapors. Contractors sometimes use portable heaters during abatement projects because all of the utilities are turned off, but they should never be used without adequate ventilation with outside air. It is found that use of portable gas-fired heaters inside contained work areas without ventilation, even for short periods, resulted in elevated concentrations of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Respiratory protection can be thought of as a type of administrative control. The effectiveness of respirators depends on proper selection, worker training, and usage. Respirators are needed when other controls cannot protect workers. Respirator selection for each job category at a worksite must be determined by a certified industrial hygienist or other competent person.

Lead-based paint exposure to humans is not healthy, and we must find ways in which to contain this toxin. If you would like more information about lead-based materials, you can visit any of these sites, or contact me at MrciWhp@sbcglobal.net.

www.rentlaw.com/leadpaintfacts.htm

www.nhfinehomes.com/disclosures.pdf

Questions or comments concerning this newsletter? Drop us an email at: environmentalanalysis@wsc.ma.edu. The thoughts and comments expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Westfield State College or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
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For More information on this, the Environmental Science Program, and other environmental topics at Westfield State College, check out our website at: www.wsc.ma.edu/environmentalscience/

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | March 28, 2005 | Issue XX

Paul Scannell: The man behind the title

By Jo Mitchell
Special To The Voice

WESTFIELD- At first glance, it would appear that getting in to see the man in charge of Public Safety is a daunting task. The support staff sits behind a glass partition, keeping a protective eye on their domain. Once allowed to enter, a member of the staff must open a heavy wooden door from the inside.

Directly ahead is another door. It is just as heavy as the first.

But take a quick left, after that second door, and a new door is standing wide open-a symbol of the open-door policy Chief Paul V. Scannell likes to enforce in his office. Scannell has been the director of Public Safety at Westfield State College for ten years now and he insists he wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's all about the students here," he said. "If students have issues and want to talk to me, I'm here."

A tall man with graying hair and warm brown eyes, Scannell wears the uniform of a professional-today, it's a bold red tie with a nicely pressed blue and white striped shirt. He sits behind a large desk, taking an occasional sip from his Mug root beer.

When asked his favorite part of his job, Scannell doesn't hesitate. "People," he says firmly. "I really enjoy being around people; helping them. You can see a lot of growth in people when you watch what they do."

Scannell has a long history of working with people. He started out teaching Special Education in Ellington, Connecticut. He taught for five years, but after the class size was cut in half due to two families moving from town, he decided he needed a change.

Always dreaming of being a State Trooper, Scannell took the exam, met the requirements and joined the Connecticut State Police. While there, he held several different positions, including working as a youth officer for seven years, a detective in the crime squad, and for four years he was the troop commander at Bradley International Airport.

He retired after twenty years with the State Police, but there was more he wanted to do. "I looked for something fun to do, a challenge," Scannell said.

He found it at WSC when he was hired as captain. In 1995 he became acting director and within the year gained his present position as director.

Working in an educational setting seems logical for a man who val-

Scannell - Page 2

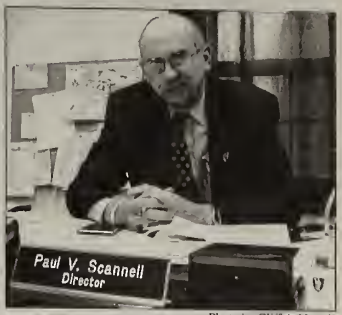

Photo by Cliff Ashbrook

WSC Director of Public Safety, Paul Scannell, worked with the State Police for twenty years before retiring and taking a position at Westfield.

Flowers and R.A. applicants bloom on campus

By Nicole LeBlanc
Voice Reporter

It is that time again when students have the opportunity to apply for the position of Resident Assistant for the new school year starting in fall 2005.

Letters will be sent to a number of students by the end of the week filling positions for next year. However, applications are accepted year round due to unexpected vacancies in positions.

Contrary to the rumor of a shortage of interest, there was an influx of applicants this year. For a job with only 62 positions available, including the new hall, there are over 70 applicants and the number is still rising.

There are 55 RA positions available and 7 Community Development Assistant positions, which consists of providing the Resident Director with assistance.

The application process consists of an application that must be filled out, a number of questions that must be answered and references. A group meeting is held in order for staff to get to know the applicants, and an interview held by professional and student staff.

Grades are also taken into consideration. The minimum grade point average for someone applying as an RA is 2.2, while someone applying for the CDA position should have at least a 2.5 GPA. According to Jon Conlogue, Director of Residential Life, students who apply tend to have GPA's that range higher than the minimum.

Returning RA's go through a different process than first-time applicants. The current RD does a report on their efforts during the year. Evaluations are also given to the students currently in the RA's section, which provides staff with good feedback from students and helps with the decision. Current RA applications are handled before new applications. Placement of chosen RA's is not guaranteed, however they can request where and give reasons for why. Their reasons will be taken into consideration by staff as well as other fac-

R.A.'s - Page 3

Westfield gives Cook the cold shoulder

By Patrick Gahan
Voice Reporter

WESTFIELD - Spring Weekend is a time for overworked, stressed out college students to take time off from their busy schedules to relax and enjoy themselves. Although it is several weeks away, the Campus Activities Board has been planning the event for months.

Spring Weekend's main attraction is traditionally the Saturday afternoon performance by a popular musical band or well-known entertainer. Naughty by Nature, Razel, Run DMC, Goldfinger, Dispatch and Story of the Year have all played at Westfield State in the past.

Comedian Dane Cook has been proposed by members of the Campus Activities Board as a potential entertainer for Spring Weekend.

The likelihood of him performing at this year's Spring Weekend is doubtful and the reasons why may be surprising to some. Money is not the issue. The Campus Activities Board has a total of $10,000 to spend on entertainment for the entire weekend. $8,000 is set aside specifically for the main headliner.

-File Photo

Comedian Dane Cook was a possible candidate for WSC's Spring Weekend performance.

The location and size of Westfield State College is also not a problem. Though Westfield is not as big or as well known Boston area colleges, Dane Cook has been known to perform at smaller venues and state schools such as Framingham State College and Southern New Hampshire University.

Cook - Page 3

Westfield State safe from rape

By Cassandra Gagnon
Special To The Voice

WESTFIELD- Are you safe from rape and sexual assault on campus at Westfield State College? According to recent forcible sex offenses and rape statistics, Westfield State is one of the safest colleges in Massachusetts when it comes to these sexually based crimes according to Campus safety statistics.

In 2003, Westfield State was attributed with only one reported rape, while the University of Massachusetts was attributed with 36 reported rapes/ forced sex offenses alone. The main difference between the two colleges is the number of students. UMASS has a student population almost six times larger than WSC, yet this does not account for the abundance of forcible sexual offences.

"It's pretty low-key here, the most 'crimes' I hear about on campus have something to do with alcohol, not sex," Isabel Olszewski, a junior at WSC said in response to hearing the statistics. "The college really isn't that big anyway, so it doesn't surprise me."

Westfield State's campus might appear safe, but what about the town? In 2003, the Town of Westfield was attributed with 12 reported rapes. How does this compare to Amherst, where UMASS is situated? The Town of Amherst reported 16 rape charges in 2003 according to the MA state police crime report for 2002-2003.

"Like all towns, Westfield has its problems with crime, but for the most part I'd say its pretty safe here. Most of the cases we see are appeals for traffic violations, some domestic, sexual violence cases and drug violations. We don't encounter too many high crime cases here, those are usually sent to the Springfield courts," Assistant District Attorney of Westfield, Colleen Martin said during a telephone interview.

"That sounds about right. If you ever visit UMASS when school's not in session, the town is like dead. All the parties and drunken chaos happens on campus," Amy Orlandi, a senior at UMASS said in

Cook - Page 3

One boy who's had it with 'Vaginas'
pg. 7

Ryan Cabrera - just as dreamy in person as he is on T.V.
pg. 10

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Scannell

ues education as much as Scannell. When he graduated from Springfield's Cathedral High School he hadn't thought to go to college because no one else in his family had gone.

But he soon started missing school and decided to go part-time nights. Sometimes he was able to manage a full-time schedule, but it took him nine and one-half years before he finally received his bachelors degree in psychology from American International College.

Later on, he also earned a Masters in Education at the University of Hartford and an additional Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven. "School's a wonderful place," he said. "Education opens your mind to so many other things."

For five years the Public Safety Department has been working on obtaining full accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The department was approved for certification in October 2003 but is still working on many additional professional standards.

"It's a living beast," Scannell said, referring to the massive black binder that contains all the procedures and policies they've been writing and revising. "We'd like to finish it by this summer but that's probably optimistic."

WSC is the third college or university police agency to become certified and the sixteenth police department in the state. Scannell is very proud of this achievement. "It's a way to measure our professionalism," he said.

Office Manager Tia Tyburski is one of the many people in the department who has assisted in the certification process. She has been with the department since 1994 and claims Scannell is the best boss she's ever had.

"The attitude he brings to the environment is great," she said. "His solution to problems is to fix them, not point fingers."

Several years ago, Scannell saw a potential problem that worried him. It was after the Columbine shootings and he was concerned that if WSC were faced with a similar situation, his department would be ill equipped and have a limited response. After attending seminars on the subject and consulting with state and city police officials, Scannell went to then President Frederick Woodward with his concerns.

It took over a year, with many meetings with students who were overwhelmingly in favor of arming police officers on campus and a 46-0 vote against such action from the faculty union before the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to arm the officers starting Fall 2001 semester.

"I just saw it as a public safety issue," Scannell said, adding that all of the officers on campus are highly trained.

Many other campuses in Massachusetts have armed officers. "Amherst College has been armed for over twenty years now," Scannell said.

Besides being the Director of Public Safety, Scannell has been involved in other areas on campus. He's taught the First Experience Course for freshmen for the past five years and he's an advisor for the Student Government Association. He enjoys attending the SGA meetings and seeing democracy at work.

Scannell and his wife, Lolly, have opened up their home to nineteen foreign exchange students over the years. "We've had kids from all over the world," he said.

"What he does for those kids is so admirable," Tyburski said. "He used to take in foster kids before; he's always been interested in the younger set."

Gavin Illangakoon, from Australia, plays guard for the WSC basketball team. He's also Scannell's latest foreign exchange student. Scannell loves watching him play basketball and brags about him as if he were his own son.

Scannell doesn't lose touch with the many students from foreign lands. He and his wife have traveled to Europe three times and visited some of the students' families. One trip included seven countries.

The Scannells love to travel. They've been to Brazil where he has fished in a river filled with piranha. They've made four trips to Mexico, to an island off Cancun, called Isla Mujeres, or Isle of Women. "I enjoy the local people," he said.

Married for forty-one years, the Scannells have two grown children of their own. They also have two grandchildren-a photograph of them displayed prominently on his desk.

"That's really a nice part of life," said Scannell, leaning back in his chair and smiling, "to sit back and enjoy the little ones."

Due to his position, Scannell knows not all students will like him. He's an authority figure who stands for the law and he must enforce it. "Some students need a reality check," Scannell said.

> **"What he does for those kids is so admirable. He used to take in foster kids before; he's always been interested in the younger set."**
>
> **-Tia Tyburski**

Denise Nichols, a junior, majoring in English and Secondary Education, was impressed with Scannell when she met him last October. "I had gone in to fight a parking ticket," she said. She hadn't parked illegally and apparently someone had placed his or her ticket on her windshield.

The following day her knee went out as she was climbing the stairs in Bates Hall. Someone called Public Safety for her as she sat helpless and in tremendous pain. Scannell and a female officer arrived to assist Nichols as they waited for the ambulance.

"Their response was very fast," Nichols said and added that Scannell recognized her from the day before and was very kind.

She was surprised to see Scannell close off the entire stairwell. "It never occurred to me that they would do that," she said, but was grateful they were so concerned about her privacy.

Christina Hanks, a junior majoring in history and middle and secondary education, lives on campus. She feels safe and thinks that overall, the Public Safety and Chief Scannell do a good job.

Her only complaints: "We need better shuttle service. Sometimes we have to wait a long time." She also wishes they would enforce the parking lots better, claiming that many people park in Main lot who really should be parking in South lot.

"Getting the full accreditation is an important project both academically and professionally," Scannell said. That's something he definitely wants to see done in the near future.

Another goal? "I'd really like to get students to lock their rooms," he said. Dorm break-ins are an ongoing problem and despite talking to the students and putting up notices, many still neglect to lock their doors.

Travel, of course, is something he wishes to continue doing as well as "being an important part of my grandchildren's lives," he said.

And also in the future, the same as the past and now: an open door.

From the Editor's Desk

Monday: We Slack

I would never claim to be as original or inventive a journalist as the late Hunter S. Thompson was, but we all could find some kind of twisted inspiration in this line.

"When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

Hunter S. Thompson

In a year where the campus mood was weird to begin with, two new buildings, one new president and one fallen crane, it has taken some damn weird turns; police on the green in riot gear and an assault on the school mascot amongst other things.

Here's the latest one, a proposed Editorial Advisory board for the newspaper. The idea came up about a month ago and now has gotten to the point where people are ready to volunteer. I'm not entirely sure what role the advisory board would play.

Perhaps it would just review story ideas and give suggestions. Perhaps provide guidance. Perhaps overtly censor the newspaper, probably not, but the mere existence of a board would in itself be an intimidating body. The field of journalism is already governed by self-censorship.

Censorship is censorship is censorship is censorship. And best avoided in all forms. Never mind the difficulty in trying to meet weekly.

Here's the quick and dirty of how The Voice gets put out.

Monday: We slack.

Tuesday: We slack and maybe get a little bit done. Maybe.

Wednesday: We ignore the outside world and plunge into a night of deadlines, proof reading, scrambling for stories, and high drama before we e-mail the product to our printer in Vermont, usually at 1 a.m., sometimes later.

Thursday: We don't remember Thursdays.

Friday: The Paper is delivered and there is much rejoicing.

All together I spend about 12-15 hours on the paper and the rest of the editorial staff will spend maybe a little less than that. Don't forget the reporters, photographers and copy editors who we could not function without, all without a paycheck. No, no, put those tissues away no need to get teary eyed, we actually enjoy it.

An Advisory board could never contemplate what kinds of stories would develop in the short time between papers. Our schedules would not mesh and neither would our agendas. For example, I respect what Dr. Arthur Jackson does in his role at the school. He does it well. He is a professional. But he needs to promote the school and we need to mix things up. A situation both of us ought to avoid.

My worst fear would be giving the Advisory Board a leash to lead the editorial staff around on. That's not fair to the staff or for future staff members. Despite the growing pains we've had up here, we still put out a quality paper, every week.

An Advisory Board would hurt that quality by hampering the free flow of ideas that should be taking place on a college campus. College is one of the few bastions of free expression remaining in American society.

The case of Professor Ward Churchill is a contemporary example. He had some disgusting things to say about the victims of 9/11. I'm not going to repeat what the bastard said so look him up on the Internet.

He ought to be able to say what he did. I don't condone his words in any way, but the importance of free speech is paramount. Without it our minds grow feeble, weak and stupid.

The first amendment is essential to free society and anyone who says or thinks otherwise is an enemy of freedom. But I would fight for their freedom to denounce the freedom I'd be fighting for.

That's patriotism. And I don't mean the flag waving, hand holding, yellow ribbon wearing faux-patriotism that periodically sweeps the country. I mean the deep down, downright scary, rebellion preaching, flag burning, street walking, patriotism that is a very, very, dangerous thing.

So with a renewed outlook for the rest of the semester we encourage any and all letters to us. The letters to the editor section of the paper acts as an advisory board of sorts. That is your place to put us in our place. We will listen to complaints about the paper and we will print letters of disdain, disgust, derision, despise, dislike, scorn and revulsion to anything you find offensive on these pages.

We welcome them. And now a parting word from the good Doctor.

"I have a theory that the truth is never told during the nine-to-five hours."

Hunter S. Thompson

Matthew "Scoop" Bernat
Editor-in-chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

The Westfield State College Dance Team Presents:

THE TURNING POINT

THURSDAY, MARCH 31 - 7:00P.M. &

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - 3:00P.M.

In The Dever Auditorium

Tickets available at the door for $3 OR purchase a ticket in advance from a dance team member for $2.

Cook

Westfield State College even meets all of the requirements listed on Dane Cook's website for booking. So then what could be preventing Dane Cook from performing at Spring Weekend?

"We have a brand new building that is capable of hosting such an event, however at this point the college only allows athletic activities to go on [in the Woodward Center]," Erin Palmer, a member of the Campus Activities Board, said.

Dane Cook requires that the school must provide a theater or gymnasium-style venue with a capacity between 1, 000 and 4,000 people. The 80,000-square-foot Woodward Center could comfortably seat this many people as well as the required professional adaptive lights, sound system and main stage.

"It is very unfortunate that we can't program big events like Dane Cook," said Campus Activities Board member Katherine Chouinard. "Hopefully we'll be able to convince the college, but it does not look good."

"I think it's very unfortunate that we can't program big events like Dane Cook. Hopefully we'll be able to convince the college, but it does not look good."

-C.A.B. member Katherine Chouinard

A Boston native, Cook has been performing his stand-up act for 14 years on college campuses across the country and on such television shows as "The Late Show with Jay Leno" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live." His latest CD, "Harmful if Swallowed," is popular among some members of the Westfield State campus community.

His act includes pointing out the daily occurrences of everyday life in his comedic routines, including Kool-Aid, Monopoly, and parking structures.

"I saw him at the Comedy Connection in Boston and I laughed so hard it hurt," said Joseph Kornow, a long-time Dane Cook fan. "If you think his CD is funny you should really see his live show; it is so much funnier."

The Woodward Center was officially opened at the start of this past fall semester and cost $18 million.

Voice of the Week

Julie Swartwout

Role at WSC: Coordinator of Woman's Month

Year at WSC: Senior

Major: Social Work & Psychology

Purpose for coordinating Woman's Month: "Last year I was really intrigued, and I thought it was really important. I like programing and wanted to be involved with this before I graduated."

Favorite aspect of coordinating Woman's Month: "Working with people I didn't have a lot of contact with throughout these past four years."

Hero: High School Guidance Counselor

Favorite movie: Life as a House

Favorite TV show: Nip Tuck

Favorite song: Feels Like Home

What she wanted to be when she was little: A Doctor

"There is still one more week of this month celebrating women and I would love if everyone got involved."

Voices of the Week compiled by: Bridget Gleason

R.A.'S

tors such as, experiences in certain instances and balance of gender in living units. Staff will place RA's in housing which they find suitable for the situation.

Students who want to become RA's can take certain measure that might better their chances. The staff looks for students who are involved in school activities and who are well rounded. Participation in clubs such as SGA and hall council are good ways to get involved, says Conlogue. Also, participation in the passport and diversity programs can be helpful.

There are many benefits to students who want to become RA's. There is a salary paid to the students. The students also receive their own room with lounge furniture, a double bed, a free polarwave and "fabulous duty clothes," says Conlogue.

Conlogue also says that there are many benefits that are less tangible. These benefits include being able to give back to fellow students. They learn about compromise and communication.

"Important experiences help students make sense of their own experiences. They learn about students and tremendously about themselves; they see that they can do something and they can do it well," says Conlogue.

It also helps students become more organized, usually resulting in better grades. Which Conlogue says students are sometimes worried might go down since they face more responsibilities.

"The campus would be a different campus, less welcoming and positive if it wasn't for the work the RA's do," says Conlogue. He can be reached at extension 5572 or emailed at jconlogue@wsc.ma.edu for more information regarding the RA position.

The Month Celebrating Women Presents:

Film: *Gabbeh*

Monday, March 28
5:00 p.m. in the Ely Lower Lounge

An Iranian fable about lovers whose story is woven into a Persian carpet.

FREE PIZZA!

Guest Lecture: *Social Implications of the Iraqi Elections: with a special focus on the status of women.*

Wednesday, March 30
4:00 p.m. in the Third World Room

Elaine Hagopian, sociology professor at Simmons College, leads the discussion.

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Spring Catch: With the warm weather just around the bend many students have taken to the green.

Rape

response to hearing the statistics. "I knew a girl who was raped my freshman year. She got completely polluted and passed at some party and some guy took advantage of her. She ended up transferring to another college."

Joanne Przewoznik, a senior at Western New England College, said, "I don't hear much about rape or sexual assault at WNEC, I actually go to UMASS for the parties. But if you're a girl, you should always have rape or being assaulted in the back of your mind so that you don't let yourself get into a situation you can't get out of."

Western New England College, located in Springfield, had no reported rapes in 2003 according to campus safety statistics. Meanwhile, the city of Springfield reported 115 rape cases according to the MA state police crime report for 2002-2003.

"Come on, no surprise there, Springfield's pretty big and the city's definitely got a bad rep," Przewoznik said in response.

Nationally, in 2003, there were 93,433 reported rapes throughout the country. There are also several resources available for anyone who's been affected by rape or sexual assault. For students living on a college campus, contact the Student Counseling Center for help or information.

Voices Overheard

How did you celebrate the month celebrating women?

Larry Penta
Class of 2006
Economics

"That's why it is such a complicated month."

Megan O'Brien
Class of 2007
Mass Comm

"I watched The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood religiously for a month."

Mike Kinney
Class of 2006
Criminal Justice

"I didn't even know it was women's month."

Meghan Mallat
Class of 2007
Mass Comm

"I went to the Vagina Monologues."

Voices Overheard compiled by Bridget Gleason

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10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE MONTH CELEBRATING WOMEN PRESENTS:

Guest Lecture: Writing Through Experience

Tuesday, March 29

7:30 p.m. in the Scanlon Banquet Hall

Presentation by writer Rochelle Alers, who will engage her audience in conversations around the writing process through their lived and learned experiences.

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Minnesota rampage leaves ten dead

BY CHRISTOPHER LEE & SHANKAR VEDANTAM
THE WASHINGTON POST

Ten people were killed and more than a dozen were wounded Monday by a gunman who opened fire at a high school and a private home on an isolated Indian reservation in northern Minnesota and engaged in a brief gunfight with police before killing himself, the FBI said.

The gunman, who was a student, killed his grandparents, local officials said. They said he then traveled to the high school in Red Lake, a town of a few thousand on the southern shore of an inland lake, where witnesses said he charged into the school waving his gun and grinning as he shot down students, teachers and a school security guard.

"At this time, we do believe the shooter acted alone," FBI spokesman Paul McCabe said in a telephone interview Monday night. It was the nation's deadliest school shooting since two students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., killed 13 people and wounded 23 others before killing themselves on April 20, 1999.

The shooter entered Red Lake High School, which has about 300 students, in the middle of the afternoon. The security guard, who was at the entrance, was the first person shot, McCabe said.

Student Sondra Hegstrom described the gunman waving at a student while pointing his gun and then swiveling to shoot someone else. "I looked him in the eye and ran in the room, and that's when I hid," she told the Pioneer newspaper of Bemidji, Minn., according to the Associated Press. "You could hear a girl saying, 'No, Jeff, quit, quit. Leave me alone. What are you doing?' "

All the dead at the school were found in the same room, McCabe said. They included a school security guard, a female teacher and a number of students. Fourteen to 15 other pupils were injured, but the extent of their injuries was not known Monday night, and McCabe declined to comment on where the injured were found.

"After he shot a security guard, he walked down the hallway shooting and went into a classroom, where he shot a teacher and more students," Red Lake Fire Director Roman Stately told Minneapolis television station KARE.

Students and a teacher at the scene, Diane Schwanz, said the shooter tried to break down a door to get into a room where some students were hiding. "I just got on the floor and called the cops," Schwanz told the Pioneer newspaper. "I was still just half-believing it. I just got down on the floor and (said), 'Kids, down on the ground, under the benches!' " She said she called police on her cell phone.

Ashley Morrison, another student, took refuge in a classroom. With the shooter banging on the door, she dialed her mother on her cell phone, AP reported. Her mother, Wendy Morrison, said she could hear gunshots on the line.

"Mom, he's trying to get in here and I'm scared," Ashley Morrison told her mother.

"He randomly walked up and down the halls shooting," said Eleanor Annette, whose daughter Kathleen Annette is the head of the Indian health service in Red Lake. "They are coming into the Bemidji hospital by the planeloads. There is an Indian hospital, but they can't accommodate them. They are taking them from the reservation to Bemidji and then to Fargo."

Four tribal police officers arrived as the youth was shooting and exchanged gunfire with him, McCabe said. The shooter retreated into a classroom, where he was later found dead.

After the shooting, parents raced to the school to check on their children. Authorities evacuated the school and locked down the campus as law enforcement officers began an investigation that includes help from the Red Lake tribal police, the Minnesota state police, the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. An FBI evidence-recovery team was sent to the scene. The FBI field office is in Minneapolis, but five agents are regularly stationed in the Red Lake area and are getting support from the field office, McCabe said.

"The investigation will be ongoing throughout the night," he said.

Stately said the gunman killed his own grandparents, and the fire official identified the grandfather as Daryl Lussier, a longtime officer with the Red Lake Police Department. He said that the shooter had two handguns and a shotgun and that they may have been Lussier's guns, according to AP.

The killings Monday were the second major school shooting in Minnesota in recent years. In September 2003, two students were shot at Rocori High School in Cold Spring in central Minnesota. John Jason McLaughlin, a student who was 15 at the time of the shooting, awaits trial in the case.

Poverty on the Red Lake Reservation stood at 40 percent, the highest of any reservation in Minnesota, according to the 2000 U.S. census, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported last year.

The reservation has seen violence before.

In January 2004, locals raked police buildings with gunfire, prompting a crackdown by the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Three years ago, the Justice Department launched a major crackdown on drugs and guns on the reservation, which has a population of around 9,000 people. Officials found evidence of executions, drive-by shootings and ritualistic violence.

Local residents blamed poverty, discrimination, and endless cycles of drug and alcohol abuse, and they said gangs often offered the only refuge for aimless youngsters.

As early as 1979, FBI agents had to be sent into the reservation to investigate widespread rioting and looting there triggered by internal politics and dissatisfaction with the management style of the BIA. Several dozen Indians stormed the jails, locked up police officers, and damaged property.

Red Lake is a closed reservation, meaning it is owned entirely by tribes, in this case the Chippewa Indians.

The shooting left the town reeling.

"You just can't imagine it would happen," said Karla Pankow, manager of a local grocery store, the Trading Post. "There's a lot of hurt people and a lot of devastated people because it's a small community and everybody

Health has been a problem for Jackson

BY STEVE CHAWKINS
STUART PFEIFER
THE WASHINGTON POST

SANTA MARIA, Calif. – Michael Jackson hobbled into court a couple of minutes late Monday, wearing an expression that suggested great pain, and was followed a few steps behind by an emergency-room physician in a baseball jacket and hospital scrubs.

Sitting at the defense table before the proceedings, Jackson dabbed at his eyes with a tissue before retiring to a restroom with aides.

It was the third time in less than six weeks that Jackson's health surfaced as an issue at his child-molestation trial, and it was yet another day in which the pop singer's behavior threatened to upstage what was being said on the stand.

For some, it also underscored a question that has been raised in several ways since jury selection started on Jan. 31: Can the gaunt pop star endure the rigors of a long trial? Jackson is 5-foot-11 and weighed just 120 pounds at his arrest in 2003. He faces 20 years in prison if convicted.

Over the years, Jackson, 46, has been afflicted with a number of conditions during times of stress, from extreme nausea to debilitating panic attacks. He also has sought help for addiction to painkillers.

In 2002, he was bitten by a spider at his Neverland ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley, and he limped into a Santa Maria courtroom four hours late for his testimony in a contract dispute. Leaning on crutches, he told reporters: "It's real bad. If I showed it to you, you'd be shocked."

The following year in Indianapolis, he was feeling fatigued and was admitted to a hospital when he was scheduled to give a deposition in a copyright case.

"He can become very concerned and nervous at depositions," said his lawyer in the Indianapolis case, Brian Oxman, who also represents him now. "He doesn't like lawsuits, and it makes him ill to have to cope with litigation that people seem to heap on him." Like other hard-driving entertainers, Jackson has been hospitalized for exhaustion. He also spent weeks in a drug-rehab facility in 1993, explaining that he had been hooked on painkillers. At the time, skeptics said he merely wanted to avoid investigators looking into charges that he had molested a 13-year-old Los Angeles boy.

But there have been other health issues as well.

Jackson insists he has had only two cosmetic surgeries, but physicians who have examined his photos speculate that there have been many more.

In 1984, his hair caught fire as he was taping a Pepsi commercial, and Jackson suffered third-degree burns on a quarter-sized patch of his scalp. The experience triggered an interest in anatomy that culminated in the pop star's observation of several brain surgeries, according to a 1991 autobiography by his sister LaToya. He also kept a human brain in a formaldehyde-filled jar – a gift, he told his sister, from a physician friend.

Over the years, LaToya wrote, Jackson was taken to hospitals numerous times for panic attacks.

While working on his "Off the Wall" album, he gasped: "Take me to the doctor – I can't breathe!" LaToya wrote.

Physicians found that he had "an extraordinarily small chest cavity that sometimes presses on his lungs," she wrote. They gave him a sedative – but he was so concerned about its possible effects that he panicked again.

Compulsive about his weight since his teens, Jackson would continually weigh himself on a scale. Later, he became as compulsive about retaining his youth, and, according to the tabloids, slept in a hyperbaric chamber, a specialized device used to keep divers from getting the bends. Journalists later said that Jackson had fabricated the story to boost his sagging album sales.

Jackson biographer Christopher Andersen also was skeptical about Jackson's well-publicized obsession with hygiene. The singer's trademark surgical mask was "a suitably bizarre affectation" for drawing attention, Andersen wrote, pointing out that Jackson had no such squeamishness about changing the diapers of Bubbles, his beloved chimp.

On Monday, such concerns seemed remote.

The pop star clutched the arms of a beefy bodyguard and his brother Jackie as he gingerly walked into court and lowered himself into his chair.

Raymone Bain, Jackson's Washington, D.C., publicist, said the singer has been in severe back pain for weeks.

However, Dr. Bert Weiner, an emergency-room physician from Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital, said Jackson had consulted him early Monday morning for a reason unrelated to back pain.

Weiner said that he accompanied the pop singer on the 35-mile drive to the courthouse and, while in the judge's chambers, received results from medical tests that had been performed on Jackson earlier in the morning.

He declined to disclose specifics of the singer's medical condition.

As Jackson entered, some of the four dozen fans who filled the back rows of the courtroom sobbed at the sight of the apparently stricken pop star. A deputy sheriff supplied a box of tissues that the fans passed around.

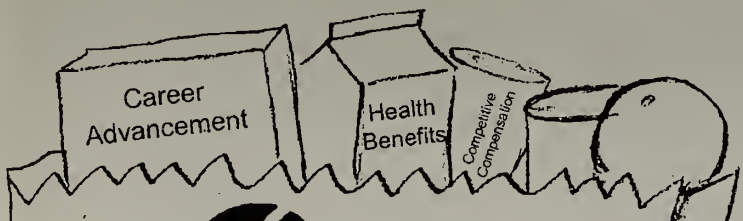
Later, during an afternoon break, one of the fans flashed Jackson a handwritten sign that said, "Get well soon," before blowing him a kiss. In a weak voice, Jackson told reporters that he was in pain and taking medication provided by his doctor. He declined to identify the medication.

Last month, Jackson checked in to a hospital with the flu, delaying jury selection by a week. Two weeks ago, he fell and hurt his back as he was getting dressed. He arrived at the courthouse wearing blue pajamas and barely avoided arrest for being late on the first full day that his accuser, now 15, testified.

This time, the pop star was not penalized for his tardiness, but court started 45 minutes late as Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville conferred in private with prosecutors, Jackson's attorneys and the physician. No explanation for the delay was given to jurors.

File Photo

Pop singer Michael Jackson, on trial for child-molestation, has been having health issues since his trial began months ago.



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OPINION

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I write this letter in response to The Voice article reporting on the recent debate on Iraq between Professors Healy and Engel. The reason that I am writing this letter is to clarify some aspects of the article, particularly the quotations that were taken from me. In their context, it would appear that these quotes were taken from me in my capacity as moderator of the debate.

This is not any way the case, however.

These quotes were taken the day after the debate from a class discussion. Neither the class nor I had any idea that a Voice reporter was in the room, that they were reporting on the debate for the paper, and I certainly had no idea that what I said in the class discussion was going to appear as my words in The Voice. I felt, and still feel, that the classroom has a certain amount of sanctity in which opinions can be freely discussed between peers without the possibility of your words being put into print.

I have discussed my concerns with the author, and he understands my concerns, but this was not his intention at the time. I have no doubt that this is the case, but I explained to him that I would feel more comfortable if I did write this letter to clarify when, how, and in what context these quotes were taken from me.

Again, I did not make these statements as the moderator of the debate, simply as a participant in a class discussion. I felt that the article itself was well written as a whole, but my only concern was the way that certain people in the article were quoted.

- Alex Trzasko
Class of 2006

The Vagina Monologes?

BY JEFF HODDER
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

Last fall I transferred to Westfield State after spending two years at Marymount Manhattan College. My freshman year my friend Sharla, who lived across the hall from me, was performing in the Vagina Monologues, and despite my apprehensions I went and supported her.

Knowing nothing about what I was about to see, other than the title, I really did not know what to expect. I learned from reading the program that the purposes of the women empowering monologues are to tell people that your body is not something to be ashamed about, or embarrassed to talk about, to raise awareness about abuse of women, raise money to protect those who need protection, and do so until abuse ends. I also read that Eve Ensler allows her work to be performed once a year for free in order to raise money for the V-Day cause.

I'm glad I went. It was a great performance, it was well acted, made me laugh, made me cry, it made me think, and that is the idea. For me, one of the most impressive things about the performance was that every point, funny or serious, was a powerful one. My roommate and I left the auditorium with an enormous case of vagina envy, and even though we had not really been able to afford the $3 to get in, we both donated an additional $20 to the cause.

Having had such a positive experience in New York, I was very excited to see that V-day was being honored at WSC. I bought tickets ahead of time and encouraged everyone I talked to to attend. So on Saturday the 26th, my girlfriend Megan and I got there early and found good seats, then we called our friends on campus to remind them. Reading the playbill I was excited to see that professors were involved. Some of the monologues are from the perspective of older women, so I was glad that the actors' ages were going to reflect the ages of the women telling the stories.

Then it began. After the introduction I turned to Megan (who had seen them twice before but never at WSC or with me) and asked her why they read their lines from a book, she didn't know. During the reading of "Hair" by Alexa Silan, we looked at each other in disbelief a couple times. Afterwards we asked each other: why were people laughing so much at that sad story? Why did she sound like she was reading it for the first time? Why didn't she act?

We realized then that it was a reading, not a performance, and even though we were disappointed we kept watching. "The Flood" is a sad story, yet it drew many laughs. We realized by the middle of the reading that the cast had missed the point, but worse, the audience was not getting the message either.

What is supposed to be an important empowering performance by women was instead a silly, giggly little reading by girls.

There were some redeeming aspects toward the end of the night. When Cassie Schutt and Laura Maloni walked out in short skirts to read "My Short Skirt" someone whistled at them. The act was not redeeming, it was degrading, but it served as fuel. For the first time all night I saw decent acting, and even better I saw people get the point of a monologue: "Believe it or not my short skirt has nothing to do with you."

Shortly after, Jolene Wagner read one of my favorite monologues, "Reclaiming Cunt", she acted well and she got the point. Unfortunately it was bittersweet, because almost everything else before it had been done so wrong, something done right seemed out of place, and the audience was visibly uncomfortable. At the end when she chanted "CUNT!" and told the audience to say it with her, instead of an empowered audience resoundingly joining in "CUNT! CUNT! CUNT!" she was faced a group of people turning to their friends wondering how to react.

> **"The reading was less than what I would have expected if it had been put on by a middle school."**

Beyond those two highlights it really was not worth watching. If I hadn't known where my money was going, I would have asked for it back. The way it was done, most things were supposed to be funny, so when the "Not-So-Happy Fact" was read it was the first time anything serious had been said on stage all night. Where did that come from the audience wondered? The costuming seemed to consist of the girls in the cast trying to out-cute each other. Prizes would go to Mary Kate Gilrein for her adorable hat, even though it took away from everything she said and to Dr. Elizabeth Stassinos for her slippers, by far the tackiest costume choice of the night.

Worst performance of the night, hands down: Jessi Ulmer. As the director she completely missed the point, and she was also able to usurp two of the best monologues, and butcher them. During her reading of "My Angry Vagina" every so often she would use a pathetic and unnecessary southern accent, or to pause, smile, and break character as she giggled at how funny the line she had just said was. Then she read "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy", as an actor the hard part about that one is the moans, which she delegated to the cast members behind a screen. Regardless of the situation each moan sounded the same; the only difference was how long it was. I've heard some fake moaning in my experiences, but this was the fakest of the fake.

The reading was less than what I would have expected if it had been put on by a middle school. It was not a middle school cast; they were all adults and I had higher expectations, so should have the cast, and everyone else involved. Shame on everyone involved, you should all be embarrassed.

Questions? Comments? I can be reached at Moeszys on AIM.

The Voice

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

I don't care about your shoes

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Before tackling the meat of this week's article, I'd like to give a brief aside on Ashley Speicher's column last week concerning Gannon/Guckert. Along with pitching softball questions and generally being a journalistic embarrassment, James Guckert was a very different kind of pitcher. You see, James Guckert was a top-for-hire on workingboys.net and meetlocalmen.com. Just to clarify, this means he was a gay prostitute (http://americablog.com has a nice section devoted tracking down Guckert's history). I don't personally have a problems with gay prostitutes, in fact I believe I wrote an article last year arguing the necessity of such a noble profession. And it's not like he'd be the only (or the cheapest) whore in the press room. It's just so… so literal, is all. That said, I'll move on to my main point:

Paul Wolfowitz is dumber than I am. As Deputy Secretary of Defense, this man has set the bar at a new, neigh-subterranean low. This is the man who asserted we'd need fewer soldiers to occupy Iraq than to invade it. This is the man who insisted that Iraq could rebuild itself with little or no American financial contribution. This is the man who George II has nominated to head the world bank.

Yes, the world bank. This man who didn't realize that rebuilding a bombed-out, war-torn, third world country full of a hostile populace would cost money or require extra troops is now supposed to head an organization that lends $20 billion a year to developing countries. A man who, quite possibly, can't count to ten with his mittens on.

When asked what in the name of the God that he talks to in his fetid, mad mulings Bush was thinking in nominating such a man, Bushie said Wolfie was "committed to development" and "a compassionate, decent man."

You know what? Earl the janitor might meet those qualifications, and probably had a better grasp on the economics of the Iraq war. Why not appoint him? Apparently, the only qualifications that Bush Jr. looks for now are unwavering loyalty (read as: sycophantism) and a supposedly well-meaning outlook. Intelligence, experience, and a competent work record are all flim-flam in the president's rapidly deteriorating world of bigamy and fanaticism.

Good news!

"THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE"
BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

There are a lot of things wrong with today's society. We all know that, you've heard me rant about it the entire year. What you haven't heard is what we can do about those things that are wrong. Obtaining an education is one of the most important things we can do to acquire the knowledge necessary to shape our ideal society. However, in the modern day with our modern society, all that you can get at a college or university is what you pull out of it. School is more like a business than a necessity to create a more informed citizenry.

Some professors make pulling what you can from your college education easy and I want to thank these professors. I feel that Professor Steve Heim has been one of my most influential instructors since being in this establishment. Not only does he cover material that is relevant to today's society, he puts forth his opinions on different aspects of what is happening in the world. Now this is something that I feel we as his students should be careful not to take for granted.

According to our own Mr. Pageau, other teachers will interject their opinions on current affairs inside their classrooms to the point that it becomes disruptive to the education one strives to get when in that class.

Today in class, Professor Heim told us that he would consider himself more to the left center than the right center, which gave the class a chuckle. When I began turning what he had said over in my mind, I realized that Professor Heim had given us a very valuable piece of information.

The world is a skewed place, people's opinions are going to reflect their ambitions. I know this thanks to the Urban Education program and, more specifically, because of my instructor Marlina Duncan. The classes that we are "forced" to take as members of the Urban Education program are called by us Urban Edders, "Critical thinking." The object of the class is to get the students thinking outside of the box, so to speak. Thanks to Professor Duncan, I am able to link pieces of information from different classes together to create very informed and knowledgable opinions.

One of the focuses of critical thinking was deciding what information was useful. Also emphasized was the fact that the giver of information has a very clear message that they are trying to convey. The job of the receiver of the information is to decide what tilt may have been put on the information and find holes in opinions, which we must then fill by acquiring the necessary knowledge. So when Professor Heim admitted to the class that had a left tilt, I felt slightly relieved. Not only does he have this tilt in his teaching on "real American history," he tells us when his opinions become involved with the course material.

In short, I love Professor Heim's class. I appreciate the fact that he accepts it when we question information that he gives us that we may feel is slightly tilted. I remember on one occasion I was kind of made to feel like a Nazi because I appreciated a certain school of thought's view on race and ethnicity. Professor Heim had made me feel like a Nazi when he explained his thoughts on that particular school of thought. When I asked him about his view and how I felt because of it, he explained to me there were indeed certain positive qualities and that he was prejudiced toward another school of thought, wherein ethnicity and race are socially constructed.

The overall message I am trying to convey is that when school is a business and students are but numbers in a system, it is nice to be looked at as a human being by an instructor. It makes a student feel more comfortable expressing his or her views and even clearing up their prejudices with thoughtful discussion. To the administration, I feel like a number. To some teachers, I feel like a paycheck. To Professor Heim and Professor Duncan (particularly), I feel like someone who is present to be taught how to create positive change in the local and global communities. I want to thank both of you for giving me a sense of what purpose really is.

Objectify me, baby

"TO THE POINT"
BY HALEY PATON
VOICE COLUMNIST

Who doesn't appreciate looking at attractive people in advertisements?

Women being objectified in the media gets talked about all the time in sociology and communications classes. But really, is this anything new? As a woman, I say objectify me all you want. Some of these ads that we pick apart in class I actually happen to like.

One such example is this ad for Cointreau liquor where the girl is wrapped in a strategically-placed orange peel and looking devilishly over her shoulder while holding a bottle of Cointreau behind her back. There are similar ads, but the concept is the same; A woman is wearing nothing but an orange peel.

In class we said that the woman essentially becomes the fruit herself.

Hey, doesn't sound so bad to me. Think of the pet names people sometimes call each other. Honey. Sugar. Sweetie. Cupcake, even. We love things that taste sweet or smell sweet. They're comforting, and pleasant. I wouldn't mind being seen as a yummy piece of fruit once in a while. And devilish is sexy for a man or a woman.

Another ad, for Nutra-Grain bars, showed a healthy-looking woman in a bikini with a pastry on her hip. Now, this may sound sick at first, but if you remember that you're looking at an ad for a health bar, it makes sense. The ad is essentially saying that the pastry will go to her hip and make her fat. Well, once in a while a pastry is fine, maybe once a week, but I think it's common sense that eating pastries all the time is unhealthy. Nutra-Grain wants you to eat their breakfast bar all the time instead, implying that you'll be healthy if you do. I'm not sure if that is true or not, but you get the picture. Personally I'd rather have cereal for breakfast, but that's me.

So what's the real issue here?

Let's face it, women have been used for advertising since its beginning. Ever look at old Coca-Cola or Pepsi memorabilia? Even at the turn of the century a smiling girl was always depicted holding the drink. There is nothing wrong with a pretty face or a sexy woman. The problem is that the women that are in these ads are sometimes unhealthy or only one body type is represented. There's nothing wrong with a skinny, small-chested girl. There's nothing wrong with a curvy girl. For that matter there's nothing wrong with a J-Lo girl, small on top and curvy on bottom. There is something wrong with a large-chested girl with no waist, no hips and no ass, however, to be frank.

Recently I saw an article applauding Jessica Simpson for her new figure, complete with a before-and-after picture. There she was, looking curvy and happy in one picture, and looking a little emaciated in the next.

No one would ever say that about Beyonce Knowles. The media is happy with her just as she is, curves and all.

According to an article I was reading the other day (at the gym, actually) there is a major difference between different ethnic groups and what they perceive as sexy. Bottom line is African and Hispanic American women seem to feel more accepted having curves while white and Asian American women feel more pressure to be stick-thin.

Hey, I have pictures of guys on my wall with washboard stomachs and muscular arms, but would I want one in real life? Maybe. But not for long if they can't hold a decent conversation. Ever meet someone who's incredibly hot and then they start speaking and you're thinking, "Oh God, you're so dumb. Please stop talking and ruining this?"

A lean body is nice, but a little bit of a belly isn't a deal-breaker. And if it is, then, and this goes for girls or guys, it's not a skinny body that will make someone want you more. It's not you they wanted in the first place.

Celtic Pride

"This Owl's Howl" by John Deschenes Sports Columnist

First of all, sorry for my absence the past few weeks, but (like most of you) I've been bombarded with work.

A few years ago the Celtics made it to the Eastern Conference finals. They lost to the New Jersey Nets, but the future appeared bright. Head coach Jim O'Brien had somehow managed to do a better job than the man who was supposed to be the savior of Celtics basketball, Rick Pitino.

O'Brien was a long-time assistant under Pitino, going back to their days at Kentucky. O'Brien proved what a solid basketball coach he was by taking over a team that was built to play Pitino's style and changing the style to produce the most wins. They changed from being an up-tempo, high energy team to a three-point shooting team. Was it boring? Yes, but it worked.

The Celtics team that made it to the Eastern Conference finals may have overachieved. The following year the Celtics were swept by the Nets in the Eastern Conference semifinals. It appeared O'Brien had done all he could with that particular group of players. The Celtics' new ownership group, led by Wyc Grousbeck, realized that the Celtics were still strapped from the Pitino era. They summoned former Celtic Danny Ainge to become the new director of player personnel, the general manager basically.

Ainge's first major move was to trade the heart and soul of the Celtics, Antoine Walker. Ainge was critical of Walker's play and Walker responded by calling Ainge a "snake." It was certainly a messy situation. I think people began to realize that the only way to make the Celtics better was to actually break up the team and rebuild. Most fans expected this to take a few years. Ainge is a proponent of playing an up-tempo style and he knew he needed the right man to coach his team.

Enter Doc Rivers. Rivers was fired in Orlando but is still perceived as a very good basketball coach. Philosophical differences led to Jim O'Brien's departure and Rivers was hired prior to this season. The new ownership was in place, Ainge had his coach, and now it became all about the players.

Remember when Chris Wallace was running the draft? The Celtics drafted Joe Johnson, Kedrick Brown and Joseph Forte. Those three guys were ALL first-round picks by the Celtics a few years ago. I don't have a clue where Forte is, Brown is riding the pine in Cleveland, and Johnson is lighting it up, but for the Phoenix Suns.

We fast forward to this year now. The Celtics seem to have had the best overall draft of any team, in my opinion. Al Jefferson, Tony Allen and Delonte West have all proven that they can play in this league. Throw in Marcus Banks and Kendrick Perkins and you have a solid young nucleus. Hopefully Rivers knows how to develop young talent, because there definitely is some.

The Celtics also have the right mix of veterans. Gary Payton has been able to work with Banks and West, Paul Pierce is having an all-star season, and Ricky Davis has been Mr. Versatility for the Celtics. The final piece of the puzzle (for this year) was acquired recently. I was shocked when I first heard about this. Antoine Walker was coming back to Boston. This would allow Walker to work with Jefferson and Perkins and it would also free up Raef LaFrentz more often. Ainge has to be credited for not being stubborn. He forgot what he said about Walker a couple years before and realized that Antoine could be just what the doctor ordered. Walker is not only a great player, but a great leader. Walker is averaging 19 PPG and 8.7 RPG in 11 games with the Celtics. The only way I said I would like this trade is if Antoine took fewer than four three-point shots per game. He has taken 33 three's in 11 games, so I can live with that. He has been what this team needs him to be a power forward.

The Celtics sit at 37-29 and in 1st place in the awful Atlantic Division. They are 10-1 in their last 11 and have won six in a row. This team hasn't even gelled yet, so look out. The schedule down the stretch is favorable as well. You hear a lot about Detroit and Miami and rightfully so, but the Celtics can make some noise in the playoffs.

Many people were questioning what Danny Ainge was doing, but like a couple of other GM's in this town, it appears Ainge knows what he is doing. Never mind wins and losses, I am just grateful that he has put together a WATCHABLE team. Last year's team was just awful to watch. I have found that the games this year are much more exciting. It's too early to say "In Danny We Trust," but who knows? Maybe down the line we will be saying that.

This is my first real Celtics column, so I think I'm officially on the bandwagon. The rest of the year should be fun.....

Prediction: 46-36

News Shows Announced at The Webster Theater
Visit them online at www.webstertheater.com

Tuesday, April 12th (Underground)
Adema, EMOK
$12 adv, 6pm

Sunday, April 17th
Hank 3, Assjack
7pm, $13 adv

Monday, April 18th
Flogging Molly
$17.50 adv

Thursday, April 28th (Underground)
Alana Davis
$13.50 adv, 6pm

Friday, April 29th
Sevendust, Skindred
7pm, $21 adv

Monday, May 2nd (Underground)
The Matches, Waking Ashland, Emmanuel, Roses are Red,
6pm, $10 adv

Thursday, May 5th (underground)
Wednesday 13 (ex Murder Dolls)
6pm, $12 adv

Friday, May 6th
Alternative Press & Vans Present: Straylight Run, Minus The Bear, The Honorary Title, Gratitude, Spitalfield

Sunday, May 8th
Marky Ramone
6pm, $12 adv

Sunday, May 8th (underground)
Punchline, This Day & Age, A Thorn For Every Heart
$10 adv, 6pm

Tuesday, May 10th
Butch Walker
6pm, $12.50 adv

Thursday, May 19th (Underground)
Sophie B Hawkins (21+)
$20 adv, 6pm

Sunday, May 22nd
The Blood Brothers, Plot To Blow Up The Eiffel Tower Big Business
$10 adv

Interested in reviewing any of these shows?
The Voice could send you for free!
Contact us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com for more details

Arts & Entertainment

McKee & Cabrera perform almost perfect sets to pleased crowds

BY LISANDRA I. BILLINGS
NEWSEDITOR

It was nearly 5:30 p.m. when I exited the highway into Hartford. As I had an interview at 6:00, I was quite frantic to find my destination quickly and efficiently. As I turned a corner and reached for my directions, it became quite apparent that I would not need them. Lined with hundreds of teenage girls, I had found the street I was looking for and had arrived at the Webster Theater.

After locating the green tour bus in which we were to perform our "first real interview" on, me and my trusty companion (a friend and fellow reporter from home) straightened our hair, cleared out throats and entered the bus with dreams of rock and roll swirlling in our heads.

Though I won't say that our dreams were squashed, it became evident that those inhabiting the bus were more the movie watching, internet surfing, relaxing types than hotel trashing rockers. Although, a lacey black bra strewn across a table did give us a shimmer of hope.

We waited patiently in what had been labeled the "back lounge" until the door opened and down the *narrow aisle* bounced a short, spunky red-head with a grin on her face and the coolest T-shirt I've ever seen.

Bonnie McKee, the 19-year-old singer/song writer presently on tour with heartthrob Ryan Cabrera, sat down, waving and smiling all the while to passing fans who knocked loundly on her bus window. Coming directly from her soundcheck, McKee looked somewhat tired and let down as she explained that, being only the second stop on the tour, they haven't quite worked out all the gliches.

"They say that a bad soundcheck means a really great show," she said. "I just hope that's true."

Though this is McKee's first tour, she says that it's been a long time coming. A musical talent for as long as she can remember, McKee wrote all of the tracks from her debut album, *Trouble*, before she was sixteen.

McKee says that the twelve tracks on the album were written when she was younger and reflect a different time in her life but she is happy to be able to share that with others.

"Even though I've grown-up and learned a lot since I wrote this album, I hope that other people can listen to it and get inspired and be able to relate to the songs," she said.

McKee, who said that she got kicked out of high school her freshman year, couldn't ever imagine doing anything but singing.

"There's just nothing else I'm good at," she said.

"Good" is an understatement.

After a few quick pictures and a walk into the venue, we waited with bated breath to see if her live performance was really as powerful and flawless as her album. We were not disappointed.

While singing, and at some points playing the pinao, McKee's performace was as close to perfect as possible without resembeling that of her tourmates rumored to be ex-girlfriend. Her vocals remained strong throughout the entire show and there was never a point at which it sounded like a high note became a strain. In a nutshell, this girl has got one amazing set of pipes.

"While singing and at some points playing the piano, McKee's performance was as close to perfect as possible without resembling that of her tourmates rumored to be ex-girlfriend."

Throwing an occasional giration into the performance, the sexy songstress took over the stage and even won over a few fans from a tough crowd of Ryan Cabrera teeny-bopper die-hards.

After McKee finished her set, the anticipation in the crowd grew like a wild fire as girls and boys alike screamed Ryan's name and waved glitter covered signs in the air. Finally Mr. Cabrera graced us with his presence, jumping on stage energetically accompanied by his and and his little red accordian.

Though I must confess I myself was never a huge Cabrera fan, but seeing and hearing him up close and not attached at the hip to a certain brown-haired Simpson did cause a few butterflys and it wasn't long before I found myself under the Cabrera speli.

Breaking regularly to goof-off with his band and "hang out," as he put it, with the crowd, Cabrera played almost all of the songs from his debut album, *Take It All Away* as well as a couple of un-released tracks he plans to include on his next album.

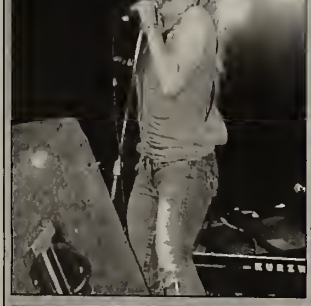
"I just wanted to get you're opinion on this one," he would say to his adoring crowd.

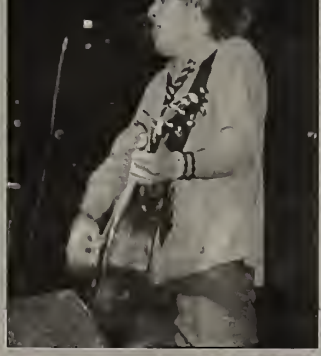
Concluding the show with an encore performance of his current single, "True," Cabrera jumped off stage, leaving every girl in the crowd swooning.

Though his soothing voice and endearing guitar playing were an obvious bonus, it was Cabrera's dorky, almost child-like behavior that won me over and by the end of the show I was an official Ryan Cabrera fan.

The evening turned out to be a huge success for both artists. McKee proved herself worthy with her breakout and inredibly solid performance in front of a tough crowd and Cabrera showed the world he was much more than a Simpson side kick.

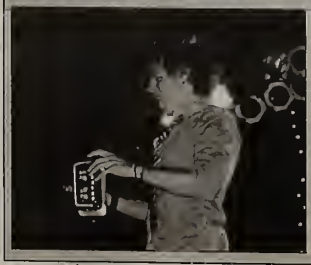
As for me, I left that evening feeling a tad bit old and with a new crush.

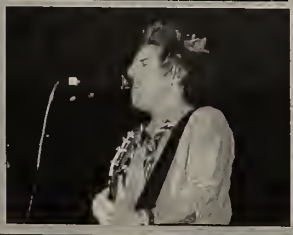




Pop-singers Ryan Cabrera and Bonnie McKee played at the Webster Theater in Hartford on Saturday, March 5. Both artists performed nearly flawlessly and gave fans their money's worth with their energetic sets.

-Photos by Lisandra I. Billings





Shinedown's album is "Burning Bright"

Steve Bruso
Voice Reporter

Right away when you listen to Shinedown's new album, *Leave a Whisper: the Sanford Sessions*, you know you've stumbled upon something different from other bands in the rock and roll scene. The album starts with a kick of adrenaline, and spreads through the rush a pleasing series of calms brought on by the more somber songs. The band blends the aggressive and heavily distorted guitar with the haunting, yet soothing vocals until it flows together, as seamless as a dream. This re-release of their debut album *Leave a Whisper* includes acoustic renditions of their singles "Burning Bright," "45," and an acoustic cover of Lynyrd Skynyrd's song, "Simple Man." Shinedown's harder-faster style is reminiscent of Saliva and A Perfect Circle with a dose of Nickelback thrown in.

The distortion on the guitar, played by Jason Todd, emphasizes the vocals rather than drowning them out. The natural echo of lead singer Brent Smith's voice reinforces the strange tranquility one feels from it, despite the guitar chords pounding through your veins like adrenaline with the drums, played by Barry Kerch, as a rapid heart-beat with pulse provided by bassist Brad Stewart. Shinedown's sound seduces you to rock out, even if it is by headbanging in your car. Smith's vocals carry you to high-mountain peaks without sounding strained and just as easily plunges you down the winter runoff in a tumultuous crescendo. And one can easily hear the burning passion in Smith's voice as he immerses himself in the river of music, to which you've become a part.

Smith's lyrics reflect solitude, broken dreams, and shattered relationships; somberly reflective songs that reach out and brush against your core. An example of this is the bridge to the song, "All I Ever Wanted": "If there's a way to a remedy then lead me straight to it/If there's a path or a door I missed, then show me now, show me this."

With subjects like these, anyone can relate to them, at once empathizing with them and recalling past memories. And yet, these themes of loss and pain are combined in a not-so-depressing manner. Rarely do you feel brought down by the music, swallowed in its misery. Instead, it lifts you up on its shoulders and carries you through it all, encouraging you to at once face the pain and recognize it is over, as is aptly put by the chorus from their song "In Memory": "Because I can't wait for you to catch up with me/And I can't live in the past and drown myself in memories."

-File Photo

Shinedown, a band that comes from Jacksonville, Florida, re-released their debut album, Leave A Whisper: the Sanford Sessions.

Reading the lyrics does not give you an accurate portrayal of the music, but they do give you a sense of its poetical value. If one were to simply read the lyrics to "45" and "Burning Bright" one would immediately conclude that the two are morbidly depressing: "And I'm staring down the barrel of a 45/Swimming through the ashes of another life/No real reason to accept the way things have changed/Staring down the barrel of a 45." But this would be a foolish conclusion as the lyrics are just one part of Shinedown's music. Upon listening to the songs, however, the listener does not get the impression of loss and pain, but rather, a sense of rebirth. It is a celebration for surviving through the pain that can be found in life.

The song "45" is about suicide, somewhat reminiscent to Kurt Cobain's, but the pulse of the bass by Brad Stewart and the beat of the drums performed by Barry Kerch combined with Jasin Todd's growling guitar and Brent Smith's soaringly high vocals show it to be a song more about life than suicide, particularly in the line "Keep your eyes open for a while."

Although many find the line "I'm staring down the barrel of a 45" to be disturbing and claim it is embracing suicide, at the end of the song there is no fulfillment of the suicide. This seems to be acknowledging the fact that many teens contemplate suicide but few actually pursue it.

Shinedown's music is more than just words, however, according to a message written on the jacket cover by the band members: "This record was written for the dreamers, for the people that have, in one way or another been cut down or cast out of society for being different or having an opinion, it is an expression of insecurity and frustration, and yet, the will to overcome. There's no turning back now that you've opened up to your mind."

The merging of solemn lyrics with a humming, grit-tooth distortion on Jason Todd's guitar makes for a harmonious and melodic blending to which you easily catch yourself singing in your head, nodding to the heartbeat provided by drummer Barry Kerch and echoed by bassist Brad Stewart. The fact that there are no real instrument solos to speak of highlights the oneness of the music. In it you are carried away, sampling from all and yet none, as they all meld together, working like one being.

Standing testament to Shinedown's success as a new rock band are the four songs off of this 15 song album that have burned their names through the charts: "Fly From the Inside," "Burning Bright," "45," and "Simple Man."

Shinedown's acoustic cover of Lynyrd Skynyrd's song "Simple Man" makes a humble and respectful bow to the original, re-creating many of the same elements in vocals and guitar and placing them on the altar in homage to the band hailed by MTV as "the definitive Southern rock band." Smith's vocals take on a deep southern drawl, and Todd's acoustic guitar twangs away, sounding remorseful at the loss of such an influential band.

The acoustic rendition of their singles, "45," and "Burning Bright" melds beautifully with the lyrical aspect of the two songs. Both "45" and "Burning Bright" contained the Shinedown guitar recipe to get listeners pumped and singing along, but the acoustic renditions put the guitar-work aside and invites the listener to really hear the lyrics. This serves to highlight the poetic theme of Shinedown's music: That the lyrics are important to the overall sound, and the acoustic performances put more emphasis on the lyrics so the listeners can hear their artistic quality.

For the twenty dollars it may cost you for this album, Shinedown's *Leave a Whisper: The Sanford Sessions* promises to wet your musical appetite and will leave your stereo speakers craving more.

Dr. Mary Ann Connors (Department of Mathematics) and 15 Westfield State College Day and DGCE students attended and gave a combined presentation at the International Teachers Teaching With Technology Conference in Washington, D.C. March 18-20, 2005. Felisa Andross, Maria Beaudin, Yony Cortes, Dayle Cushing, Dori Gaulin, Kristen Johnson, Kerry Kavanagh, Jenny Kirouac, Julieann Little, Stephanie Murchison-Brown, Jennifer Rust, Bethany Souza, Kate Wesolowski, Chelsey Wiater, and James Wile reported that the experience was informative, exciting, and energizing. Mary Ann Connors, Jenny Kirouac, Jennifer Rust and James Wile gave presentations on "Hand-Held Technology in Mathematics Teacher Preparation Courses"

Poetry Corner

The Observationalist

They do not know that I
am watching them
But I am
I observe their frivolous
activities with slightly
concealed loathing
Their excistence mocks
the species they are categorized with
They are a waste of skin
Who are these people?
They are my peers.

- Jane Dont -

Unfated

I don't want to want you
or hold you by my side
or picture us as more than this
or have to say I've tried
I don't want to love you
or your sweet talking way
or imagine that your mine at all
or beg for you to stay
I don't want to need you
or depend that your there
or pretend that this moment
is going anywhere
But
I don't want to lose you
and though it's hard to say
I'm pretty sure I love you...
and soon you'll go away

- AN -

Hopesfall Takes Action

EMILY ENGEL & DAVID PAGEAU
VOICE REPORTERS

Has a new album changed the dynamics of the long-time-up-and-coming melodic hardcore band Hopesfall? Do internet leaks ruin a brand new record? Guitarist Joshua Brigham says that he's just there to head bang. The Take Action Tour has already climbed the east coast while not only promoting a help line for teens to prevent suicide, but also giving the kids a show they are sure to remember. New to the tour, Brigham and the rest of Hopesfall are happy to have received the opportunity they did to be a part of this good ol' traveling rock show.

Has there been one or two shows that have stuck out on the Take Action Tour to you?

On this tour, I'd have to say Atlanta and Miami are two places that, like, notoriously aren't that great for us. We always seem to have really sub par shows there, but both the shows this time around were incredible. So that was really encouraging.

How is it playing bigger venues? When I saw you at the Worcester Palladium, you were on the main stage instead of the smaller upstairs stage where the band used to play. How is that for you?

It's weird. It's weird to see how many more people get into, I guess, the whole sub culture of music, you know, that it actually has to go from a four hundred person venue to a thousand person venue because that many people are interested these days. It's odd, since, you know, I was going to shows when I was fifteen, to like, little tiny hole in the wall places, but now all the younger kids are coming out to these huge rock venues.

With their mom's.

Yeah, with their mom's dropping them off. And it's also weird because when I was younger, there was thirty or forty people at a show, and it was like a party. Everybody knew each other and you know the bands just broke down right out with everybody and it was just on the floor and fun. And it's crazy to have come from that to see what it's evolved into now. It's different. I'm not saying it's good or bad either way, it's just different.

Do you find that you have shows at, for instance, the Palladium, where all the kids get on the stage and they don't get off? It's probably not like that anymore, is it?

Well, I don't know. The Palladium is a unique place. They'll let it happen there. A lot of other clubs, they wouldn't just let it happen. We don't care, we're just like, whatever man, if you guys want to come up here and rock out, fine, let's rock out, you know. But I just don't think ... Well, places like this, they hire ten guys to do security but uh, I think that at the Palladium shows there's a little different feeling. All those kids ... They are all a part of like, the "hardcore scene." They're all having fun together but a lot of these younger like teenager, kinda like teeny bopper ... I hate to place a label, but I don't know.

But it's true though!

I don't know, if they were standing here now, they'd be like, "No, that's not right!" It wouldn't be a bunch of people rocking out enjoying a show together, it'd be different.

Your line up has been changing, a lot. You're the only one that remains from the original line up of Hopesfall. Does that at all change the writing process?

Well, yes, it has changed, because there's different people, but the process has always been the same. Hopesfall was kinda founded on the belief that the sum is greater than all the parts, you know what I mean? Everybody comes together. There's no one song writer, it's just everybody has ideas about a track.

It seems as though *A Types* has been a huge step forward for Hopesfall. It's taken the band in a very new direction. You have a much larger focus on clean vocals, it doesn't have so much the hardcore feel to it. Do you feel that the dynamics onstage and from the crowd are different from playing tracks off *A Types* as opposed to *No Wings to Speak Of?*

Honestly, it's weird because, especially on this tour, no one's heard of us. Nobody knows who we are. So they don't know the difference between the old and the new. But as far as us on stage I still, like, I don't know ... I just head bang the whole time anyway.

I've noticed that.

Yeah, I just keep my eyes closed and head bang like, the whole time, it doesn't matter if it's old or new, so I still try to bring the same energy.

You can definitely feel that through the album, the guitar parts do bring the same kind of energy to the album itself. You can hear the difference, but you can also hear the same thing as before.

Yeah, a lot of people, they're like, "Wow, this is such a huge departure," but I want to be like, go back and listen to *The Satellite Years*. There were four songs on that record and there's no screaming. My favorite bands growing up and still to this day are Hum and Smashing Pumpkins. And when I was seventeen or eighteen and we started the band I was all full of piss and vinegar and pissed off and angry at the world, whatever, and we took those influences and used it to create a more hardcore thing, but now I'm twenty-five, you know, I'm kinda more laid back. But I still like really aggressive heavy guitar stuff, but you know, I'd prefer to listen to good vocal melodies and interesting lyrics. It's different, but we try to keep the same live feeling. We will always play those old songs. I'm proud of those songs, I like them, I like playing those songs. We'll always try to mix it up, and we'll always have a high energy rock show.

It's not one of those things where you're just trying to promote the new album. You want to play the old stuff too.

Oh yeah, and on this tour, we only have thirty minutes to play, and we are trying to promote a new record, so we play two old songs and four new ones, but if we had more time we'd have a set with more variety.

(From upper left) Hopesfall; Dustin Nadler, Josh Brigham, Mike Tyson, Jay Forrest & Adam Baker (not pictured)
photos by David Pageau & Emily Engel

Hopesfall is coming to the end of the Take Action Tour, and you're going to have two weeks off and then you'll be going back out on tour with The Chariot. What are you going to be doing on those two weeks off?

I deliver pizza. I've been delivering pizza for ten years. I put myself through college delivering pizza. I had twelve or fifteen hours of class each week and thirty or thirty five hours of delivery a week. I'll go back to doing that, but I also work at a club in Charlotte (North Carolina) called Tremont Music Hall and basically, I clean the parking lots. It's ten dollars an hour, cash under the table. It works out. We just hang out at the club, I mean, that was the club I grew up going to. It's funny, we'll work, we'll clean up the venue and help the bands load up their gear and then we'll just all hang out with the guys that played, drink a beer ... It's pretty cool.

A lot of people heard about Head Automatica stopping their run on the Take Action Tour. What do you think about that?

Well, it's a bummer for Daryl [Palumbo], but even when he was in Glassjaw, he had Crohns Disease and it plagued him. You feel terrible for the guy, but at the same time it gave us a great opportunity, which I'm very grateful to have. I wish it could've come about in a different way, but we hope that he gets better and gets back out on the road and does his thing.

There was also a rumor that they were unhappy they weren't first on the bill and that was one of the reasons they dropped the tour.

They weren't going to be the opener. They were going to be the second band. It's a five band bill every night and they were scheduled to be the second band every night. Because we were supposed to originally be on the first five days of the tour and the last ten as the first band, and because they had to cancel, we got bumped up a spot to the second band and we got the whole tour.

Bands like Norma Jean and The Chariot have had their albums leak out on the internet. Even *A Types* was reported to be out a little earlier than it was supposed to be. What do you think about this? Is it a good thing, a bad thing?

Honestly, I'm generally indifferent on it. I don't have an iPod. I don't even have a computer or an e-mail address or anything. So it doesn't really affect me personally. I'm just like well, if it gets out, it gets out.

Would you rather have it get out and have your fans listen to it early?

Once the record is out, it's fine to have it online, you know, that's just is what it is and I don't really care if people download it. If they download it and don't buy the record, they come to the show and buy the merch. You know, it's like, big fucking deal, I don't care, it's nice to have to have sound scans and whatnot but I just never really paid much attention to it.

A lot of people do care though.

Yeah, we handed our record out to our friends before it came out and obviously our manager sent it to people we'd be trying to get tours with, so we'd send a copy of our record to someone else's manager with like, a tour proposal. We'll be like, we'll pay for this much advertising, blah, blah, blah, and so it gets out that way and once they get it, they just give it to their bands, spread it around, whatever. I guess I'm just indifferent.

Who is your favorite Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle?

I'd have to say Leonardo. Just because who he was named after. The most bad ass inventor. He's like up there with Isaac Newton and Einstein and a complete savant.

The Westfield State College baseball team played several of its Florida trip games in Port Charlotte Stadium, the former spring trainiig home of the Texas Rangers. The Owls posted a 4-6 record during their southern trip. *Photos By Mickey Curtis*

The Westfield State College softball team enjoyed both the sun and the sights during their spring break in Fort Myers. The team compiled a 3-5 record in Florida.

Tessa Donoghue and David Richardson

Donoghue, Richardson All Americans

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Westfield State College senior Tessa Donoghue and junior David Richardson earned All America honors at the NCAA Division III indoor track and field national championships on March 11-12 at Illinois Wesleyan.

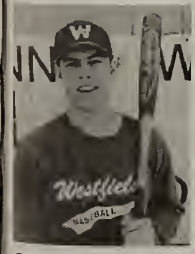
Donoghue placed second in the long jump and third in the triple jump, while Richardson was fifth in the high jump in earning his first All-America certificate. Donoghue is a 14-time All American; the Springfield Cathedral graduate was a 10-time All-American at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., before transferring to Westfield State last year. She earned All America honors for the Owls in the long and triple jumps during the 2004 outdoor season.

In Saturday's tense triple jump competition, Donoghue was in second place after the preliminary round as she tied her personal best of 39-9 1/4. Andrea Herbert of New Jersey City College's effort of 39-10 1/4 in the preliminary round was good enough to win the meet.

Donoghue fouled on all three of her attempts in the final round, while Dorcen Nagawa of Wilmington College went 39-9 1/4 on her final attempt to earn second place.

In Friday's long jump competition, Donoghue's effort of 18-8 3/4 only trailed Kristal Grisby of the University of Thomas, who set a facility record with a jump of 19-2 1/2.

Richardson just qualified for the national meet and was seeded 13th. But the Beverly native proved that he belonged with a personal best of 6-8 3/4, and he just missed at 6-9.



Player of the Week

Sophomore shortstop Troy Ferguson was named Mass. State Conference and ECAC New England co-Player of the Week. The Rochester, Mass., native hit .548 (17 for 31) in 10 games, with three doubles, a triple and a home run. He scored 13 runs and stole six bases.

The Westfield State College softball and track and field teams begin working out at Alumni Field last week in preparation for their 2005 spring sports seasons. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:

-Co-ed Sand Volleyball

-Floor Hockey (Men & Women's)

-Sport Trivia

-Softball (Men, Women's & Co-ed)

-Ultimate Frisbee

DODGEBALL PLAYOFFS WILL BE STARTING NEXT WEEK!

IM BOARD WILL BE MEETING NEXT WEEK - CALL THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS!

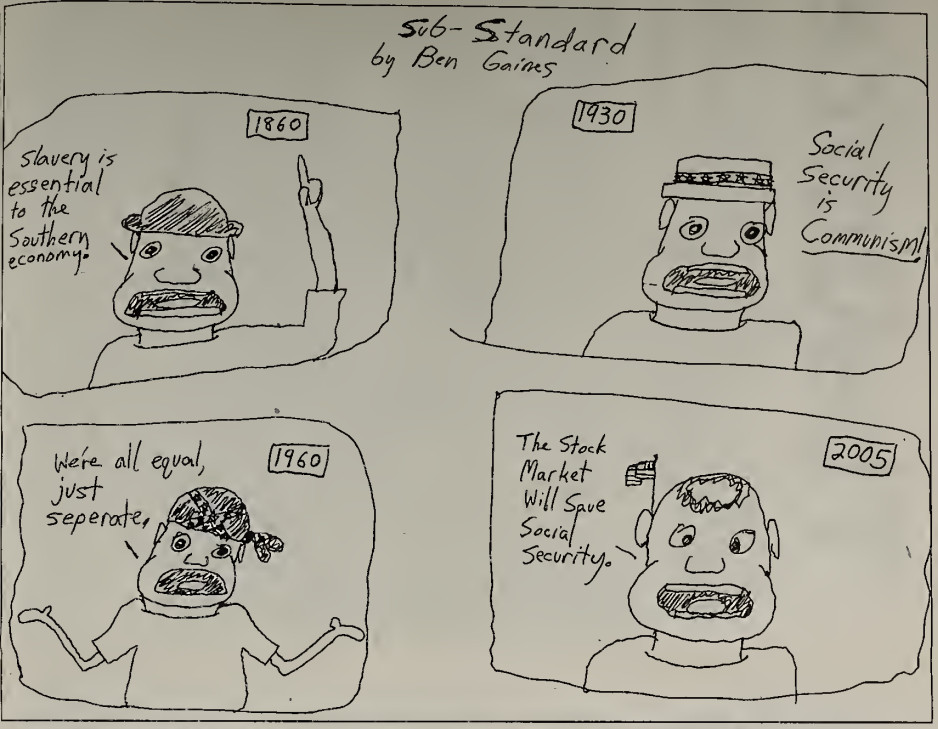
Anyone playing intramural floor hocket MUST purchase a mouthguard! Mouthguards can be purchased in the intramural office (Parenzo 169) between the hours of 12 p.m. and 10 p.m.

OUTDOOR SOCCER PLAYOFFS WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK!

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!



"If they ever come up with a swash-buckling school, I think one of the courses should be Laughing, then Jumping Off Something"

"To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography, and the dancers hit each other."

"Laurie got offended that I used the word 'puke.' But to me, that's what her dinner tasted like."

For more Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy visit:

www.cco.net/~jpete/deepthou.htm

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

Looking for a TV?

12 inch screen, built in VHS player, cable ready, black with color picture. Optional Spanish instructions available...This one's a beaut, sure to sell fast! Looking to get $20 but price negotiable. Leave a message at EXT. 5431.

March- The Month Celebrating Women

Mon 3/28	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	
Tue 3/29	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	RAD Class - WOOD - 6pm-9pm
Wed 3/30	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm	The Travel Series - SLR - 12:20pm
Thurs 3/31	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Dance Team Perfomance - DA - 7:00pm	RAD Class - WOOD - 6pm-9pm
Fri 4/1	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 4/2	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - 7:30pm-Midnight Dance Team Performance - DA - 3:00pm	Sun 4/3	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Photo by- Mike Coughlin

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Melodic hardcore Hopesfall interviewed pg. 12

The Voice

The Responsible Student Press of Westfield State

Volume X | April 4, 2005 | Issue XXI

Warm weather has students outside

By Lisandra Paythebills
Nice Editor

Recently there has been a strange, furry looking creature seen lurking around the WSC campus, and it's not our friendly owl Nestor.

"He's real gross looking," said student Randy Travis. "I've only seen him once, but that was enough for me."

Travis is one of the seventeen reported students who have spotted the creature that police are labeling as the "WSC Big Foot."

"We're not calling him 'Big Foot' because he resembles the creature," said one WSC policeman who was too afraid to state his name for fear of the creature's wrath. "He's just become notorious like 'Big Foot' and has 'Big Foot-like' tendencies."

The creature was first spotted in the fall of 2004 by a female freshman student on her way to an 8:15 a.m. class on a chilly morning.

"I was walking fast across the green because it was so cold," she said. "I looked up and I saw it, running awkwardly with its head down, right in front of Ely. I screamed and it looked at me but then just ran faster

Weather - Page 2

Dining Commons on the move

By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

Following a recent health and saftey inspection conducted by the Westfield Board of Health, the Dining Commons was found to be in violation of six city health codes.

"We knew we were up for inspection and expected it. The renovations will take two to three days to remedy," said Greg Goodtire the Director of the Dining Commons.

Goodtire noted that five of the violations were structural and while the sixth was a matter of one employee not wearing gloves while serving food.

"That situation was remedied very speedily," said Goodtire.

With the Dining Commons to be shut down for a few days, all operations will be moved to the school's administrative center located at 333 Western Ave.

"What most people don't know is that 333 has a rather large basement, large enough to accomadte students, though we are encouraging students to stagger their meal times," said Goodtire.

He urged students to avoid peak mealtimes and not to expect many hot selections.

Though the basement is large, it lacks the capacity to cook many of the meals students have grown accustomed too.

Hamburgers, pizza, pasta and the main entree will not be offered.

"We can't move the equipment needed to provide those types of meals," said Goodtire.

Students can expect fruits, desserts and lots of cold cut sandwhiches on the menu and vegetarian meals will continue to be

DC - Page 3

-File Photo

The Dining Commons will have a new home in 333 starting this Wednesday until possibly Friday.

Hall construction delays forecasted

By Matthew Bernat
Former Editor in Chief

Though many students have awaited the coming semester for the much anticipated openening of the new dorm hall their wait may just have been extended a little further.

In a press release this past Thursday it was made public that the construction company in charge of getting the new hall erected, Sullok, announced building complications.

"The mud that has collected around the base of the construction is posing a problem for the heavier machinery needed to lift the steel beams," said a Sullok company spokesmen.

"We can expect the doors to be opened sometime in the early fall, perhaps mid-October," said the spokesman.

The school is advising students to commute to school if possible for the first few months.

"We understand many of our students do live in the eastern part of the state. Somtimes 2 to 3 hours away. So we have made arrangements to convert the gym into temporary housing," said Joe Cologne the Director of Residential Life.

This same situation has happened in the past. During the construction of Lammers Hall, the gym was used as temporary living space for 500 misplaced students.

"We'd have beds in the gym and an area for personal belongings, we ask students to only take the essentials for that first month or so," said Cologne.

Though Sullok has a exemplerary record of completing projects on time, the Westfield site has proven particulary unlucky.

In the beginning of fall semester a crane had fallen coming within a few feet of Davis hall..

Students across campus are outraged.

"If this happens and we can't move in to the new dorm, we better get some kind of refund. I live 3 hours away on the Cape and commuting for me would be the dumbest

Construction - Page 3

Student arrested for soliciting

By Mike Brenna
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College student Matthew Bernat was arrested with charges for alledgingly soliciting a prostitute outside of a Springfield bar this past Wednesday.

According to court documents Bernat pleaded innocent to the charges levieled against him.

The prostitute was in fact an undercover police officer and was part of a periodic sting operation that looks to net johns in the city of Springfield.

A WSC student is arrested by Springfield police following an undercover sting operation.

Police reports state that Bernat had just exited a bar on Worthington St. after being asked to leave the premise for being belligerent.

Once outside witnesses said Bernat began walking away until he collasped to the ground.

At that point he stood up and made motions as if he was going to throw up.

"Yeah, he just kind of hunched over like he was going to. I don't know why he would, he only had like two drinks," said one witness who asked to remain anonymous.

According to the police report, Bernat regained his composure and walked up to the undercover agent.

"It was at this point that the defendent said 'Hey baby,' put his arm around me and pulled out a $20 bill,"

Arrest - Page 2

Not all sequels can surpass the original...this one does.

Read about 'Taxi Driver: 2"

pg. 9

Thought you knew her? You don't.

Sarah Cagan comes clean.

pg. 8

Inside

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Arrest

said the undercover agent.

Two officers waiting in a car across the street walked over and arrested Bernat promptly.

Bernat is a 21 year old Westfield State College and Editor of the school newspaper there.

He is from Palmer MA and has no previous record.

"Matthew's behavior is reprhensible and will not be tolerated at this school," said Dr. Andrew Johnson the Vice President of Student Affairs at WSC.

"Regardless of the outcome of the trial he will be facing disciplinary action from the school which can include but is not limited to, suspension, expulsion, loss of housing and heavy fines for damaging the school's reputation," said Johnson.

Bernat's behavior and subsequent arrest came as a surprise to many.

"Yeah, you know Matt was a goofy kid. Didn't think he'd do time for something like that. He was more about school work and stuff," said Paul Norway a member of the school paper of which Bernat was a part of.

"Arrested? No, I don't believe it," said Jim Mickle a junior at WSC and friend of Bernat's for 3 years.

"If I had know he was into that I wouldn't have let him in the room like I did for all those years," said Mickle.

To those close to Bernat the incident was not anything out of the ordinary.

"It was bound to happen. You should have seen up there on Wednesday nights when we put the paper," Lisandra Billings said, "Sometimes he would just talk to himself in the corner and make weird gestures. I'm actually relieved that he's gone it'll be much nicer up there," said Billings.

> **"Sometimes he would just talk to himself...I'm actually relived that he's gone."**
>
> **- Lisandra Billings**

Bernat's family was shocked at the news of their sons recent actions.

"He was such a good kid, I just don't understand, you raise a kid and hope they they turn out okay and then something like this happens. It's...I don't know," said Bernat's mother Mary Bernat.

His father and brother could not be reached for comment.

This was not the first time Bernat has faced disciplanary action from the college.

In October of his sophmore year an underage Bernat was caught with alcohol on campus in Dickinson hall.

In a phone interview Bernat denid all charges and said, "That paper isnothing without me, nothing! If it weren't for me this whole school wouldn't know nothing. I am the man! The man!"

He is currently undergoing psychiatric evaluations while in prison.

Weather

and disappeared behind Lammers."

Often described as wearing a long, dark coat and work boots, the beast has long, greasy hair and often wears a backwards baseball cap. Mysteriously, he always carries around a bucket.

"Yeah, I saw it once," said Michael Dasani, a junior Criminal Justice major. "He was carrying that creepy bucket, do you know what's in there? The rumor is that he cuts up little freshman girls and keeps their arms and carries them around in that bucket."

> **"Yeah, I saw it once."**
>
> **- Michael Dasani**

Though public safety has not confirmed that it is indeed human arms the man carries in his bucket, they are urging any student who sees the "Big Foot" to call them right away.

"It is imperative that we locate this creature as soon as possible," one officer said. "Who knows what this character is in to."

Though it is unknown where the "Big Foot" resides, many students believe that he lives deep in the woods of Stanley Park where he hoards small children and Soccer Moms.

"I've heard screams coming out of those woods lots of times," said Ryan Gratcher, a senior who enjoys long hikes in the park. "I think he probably has a club he uses to beat his prey with before he cuts them up and puts them in his bucket."

There is currently a $5,000 award being offered to anyone who can give information leading to the capture of the beast. Police remind students who see the creature to stay clear and call them immediately. And for heaven's sake...don't touch the bucket. Who knows what disease you could get.

From the Editor's Desk

Change of the guard

Due to the present incarceration of our former Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Bernat, I'm pleased to announce that I have officially taken over control of The Voice.

What happened to Emily Engel, our former second-in-command, you ask? Seeing as though she wasn't even suited to empty our trash, it was pretty obvious who the best choice was.

Thank God.

I would like to begin by saying this really is a privilege and I promise (GIRL SCOUTS HONOR!) that I will do my best to make you all proud and be the best darn Editor-in-Chief a girl can be.

Now, I know that things with The Voice have been a little shaky this year, but I want you to know that you don't have to worry about that anymore.

Mr. Bernat not only made this newspaper an increasingly uncomfortable place to work (with the butt pinching, whistles and constant flirting) but also completely desecrated everything that the incomparable former Editor-in-Chief, Tom Perron, built up.

Shame on Mr. Bernat and shame on the rest of us on the staff for not stopping him sooner.

I cannot promise you that all of the wrongs will be righted, but I do promise we're going to try, and to do that we need your help. We are inviting all of the former staff who were scared away by Mr. Bernat's constant harassment or anger outbursts to come back.

The Voice office is a safe place now and there will be no judgments on those who were unable to commit at the beginning of the year. Under those kinds of conditions I don't blame you, it's amazing that the few of us that are left lasted so long.

Although I know the pain that Mr. Bernat left on all of us will always remain deep in the darkness of our souls, I suggest we use his jail time as a time for our own personal healing. I know that is inevitable he will eventually be released, if we are strong and don't allow him to hurt us in the future, he will be unable to. After all, he is but one man and we are an army...

In conclusion I'd like to leave you all with some song lyrics from the incredibly Christina Aguilera from all of the previously suppressed women at The Voice, dedicated to Mr. Bernat (because I know that they're delivering a paper to him in jail).

"This is for my girls all around the world
Who've come across a man who don't respect your worth
Thinking all women should be seen, not heard
What do we do girls?
SHOUT OUT LOUD!
Letting them know we're gonna stand our ground
Lift your hands high and wave them proud
Take a deep breath and say it loud
Never can, never will
CAN'T HOLD US DOWN!"

- "Can't Hold Us Down" by Christina Aguilera, featuring Lil' Kim

Lisandra "I won't sexually harass you" Billings
Editor-In-Chief

Professor lives out cliched male fantasy

Jane Plain
Voice Reporter

Yesterday Westfield State College English professor George Layng announced that he will be canceling all of his classes this Friday to prepare for his wedding to be held on Saturday, although he did not name the event's location.

The news came as a shock to some students who had no idea that he was engaged, let alone to former Russian runway model Anastasia Vasil'ev.

"I'm just a private person, I guess," Layng said of the couple's previously undisclosed courtship.

The two met at a writer's conference in the fall. Vasil'ev, known to fans and friends alike simply as "Ana," was at the conference pursuing a long-time interest in literary journalism.

"I met him while getting a coffee between panel discussions," Vasil'ev said.

"We started talking about books we had both read, and that was it for me."

Students seemed positive about the couple's future nuptials.

"I mean, it's great that we're getting out of class Friday, I'm not gonna lie," said freshman Stacy Truman, currently taking English composition II with Layng. "But it's so nice to hear such happy news. The whole thing is just great."

Junior journalism student Dave Garrett had all good things to say as well.

"Have you seen her? And she's smart," Garrett said of Vasil'ev.

"Beauty and brains. Layng's a lucky man."

DC

offered.

"This is not something we take lightly," said Anne Wallingford one of the inspectors.

"Safety is Westfield's number one priority and I think a little inconvience on the part of the students can be tolerated to get these repairs done," said Wallingford.

While in the basement of 333 students will have to eat with paper plates and plastic utensils as the basement lacks washing facilities.

"Looks like I won't be eating for a few days," said Jane Don't who added that she plans on living off of easy mac and cheese and leftover pizza until the Dining Commons is fixed.

The Owl Express runs in the morning and most of the afternoon so students will be able to take the bus for breakfast and lunch and in the evening public safety has promised to run both shuttles and extended service to 333 until 7 p.m.

Goodtire reminds students that grill in Wilson Hall, Subway and Jazzman's will remain open and extra staff will be employed to deal with the influx of students who will no doubt be seeking a decent meal.

"At Subway you can get a great grinder, Jazzman's offers prepared sandwiches and wraps while Quioxtes is your basic imitation Taco Bell. No one will starve I can promise you that," said Goodtire.

Construction

thing ever," said David Pagu a junior.

"My dads a laywer and a cop so if I don't get compensation some serious ass will be kicked if I do say so myself," said Pagu.

Other students are trying to put a positive spin on the matter.

Tina Pollicko, a member of the student government association was enthused by the extra bonding time students will get by living in such close quarters.

"I know a lot of seniors are going to be living in the new apartments and since they only have, like, one year left, wouldn't they, like, want to spend a whole bunch of time together," Pollicko said.

The student government has taken no official position on the matter.

The new hall is part of a construction spree that began with the completed Woodward Center which houses many of the school's sports.

The Woodward Center was suggested as a better spot to house the temporary students but was nixed due to the fact that only sporting events can be held in the new building.

The influx of students to the on-campus gym has caused concerns of fall intramurals being cancelled.

This is not true.

"To ensure that the fall intramural season goes smoothly all of the tempoaray residents of the gym will be asked to move their beds and belongings aside during the day," said Lisa Loeb the Athletics Director at WSC.

"I ain't moving nothing," commented Ryan Slashek upon hearing the news.

Voice of the Week

Bridget Gleason

Role at WSC: The Voice Intern Supreme

Year at WSC: Freshman

Major: Special Education

Favorite movie: The Wedding Singer

Favorite TV show: The OC

Favorite Quote: "Release your inner geek, life is too short to be cool."

Favorite part of working for the Voice: "Everyone is nice and nobody yells at me if I do something dumb."

Reason for working for The Voice: "I needed a work study job and didn't know where to go so my friend Bill told me the Voice was looking for people to work. I ventured out to investigate working for The Voice and I thought it would be fun."

What she wanted to be when she was little: A Dancing Veteranarian

Voices of the Week compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Cooperating Colleges of Greater Springfield

Job Fair 2005

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

10:00 - 2:00pm

Western New England College Alumni Healthful Living Center 1215 Wilbraham Rd. Springfield, MA

Over 60 employers registered

For participating companies and directions visit:

www.ccgsjobfair.com

OPEN TO ALL MAJORS

Voices Overheard

What music do you dance naked to?

Pete Norwood
Class of 2008
Undeclared

"Showtunes. I love to dance naked to the Showtunes"

Lisandra Billings
Class of 2007
Mass Comm

"I'm partial to Elton John and Eminem."

Emily Engel
Class of 2006
English

"Ashlee Simpson. She makes me want to La-La."

Matthew Bernat
Class of 2006
Mass Comm

"Anything by Moby."

Voices Overheard compiled by The Voice staff

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield

115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)

Phone Number: 568-0429

Sundays:
9:30a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Colon cancer tests: the best and the rest

JANUARY W. PAYNE
THE WASHINGTON POST

People should view colon-screening tests as they would any screening test, "just like women get Pap smears or mammograms," said Radhika Srinivasan, a University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine professor who helped develop new guidelines for colorectal screening. Her group's report suggests that African Americans start getting colonoscopies at age 45, five years earlier than other people.

Options for colon cancer screening include:

Colonoscopy. Doctors examine the entire length of the colon using a camera-tipped instrument attached to a flexible tube. The test, during which patients are sedated, is widely recommended because it allows for the detection and removal of polyps, growths on the colon wall that can become cancerous. The test is generally recommended once every 10 years; more often for those with a family history of colorectal cancer or existing bowel disease.

Sigmoidoscopy. A physician uses a camera-tipped scope to examine the lower third of the colon. A less effective test than colonoscopy, this procedure does not require sedation, and doctors often recommend it in conjunction with a fecal occult blood test (see below) every five years.

Fecal occult blood testing. This noninvasive test is used to detect the presence of blood in the stool--often the first warning sign of colorectal disease. A positive test is ordinarily followed by a colonoscopy. The blood test should be done once a year and can be combined with sigmoidoscopy.

Double contrast barium enema. An X-ray technician takes pictures of the large intestine before and after the patient is given a barium enema (a chemical that flows into the colon and shows up on the X-ray). The test, suggested every five years, is rarely recommended because it is "substantially less sensitive than colonoscopy (at detecting) large polyps and cancers" and does not allow doctors to remove polyps, says the report on the revised guidelines.

Virtual colonoscopy. This noninvasive screening test uses computers and X-rays to create images of the colon. Some physicians say it may become more widely used after it is studied more thoroughly.

Fecal DNA stool test. This noninvasive test detects genetic abnormalities in fecal samples. More research is needed before this test can be recommended for widespread use, according to the report.

Elephants are versitile mimics

ROB STEIN
THE WASHINGTON POST

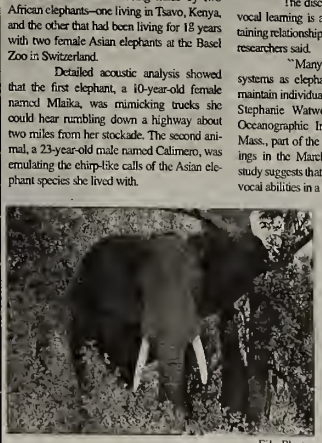
An international team of scientists studied unusual sounds being made by two African elephants--one living in Tsavo, Kenya, and the other that had been living for 18 years with two female Asian elephants at the Basel Zoo in Switzerland.

Detailed acoustic analysis showed that the first elephant, a 10-year-old female named Mlaika, was mimicking trucks she could hear rumbling down a highway about two miles from her stockade. The second animal, a 23-year-old male named Calimero, was emulating the chirp-like calls of the Asian elephant species she lived with.

Other animals are known to have the ability to mimic sounds, but African elephants are the first example of a non-primate land mammal that can do this--other than humans.

The discovery supports the idea that vocal learning is an important skill for maintaining relationships among social creatures, the researchers said.

"Many species with similar social systems as elephants use vocal imitation to maintain individual-specific relationships," said Stephanie Watwood of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Mass., part of the team that reported the findings in the March 24 journal Nature. "Our study suggests that elephants may be using their vocal abilities in a similar manner."



-File Photo

Two elephants at the Basel Zoo in Switzerland have been mimicking other elephant noises as well as the rumbling of trucks heard from a nearby highway.

Hundreds die in Indonesia after new undersea quake

ELLEN NAKASHIMA
THE WASHINGTON POST

MEDAN, Indonesia--A major underwater earthquake struck Indonesia's Sumatran coast late Monday, killing hundreds of people and crushing buildings on a nearby resort island, according to Indonesian police.

Tsunami warnings resounded overnight in many locations on the Indian Ocean, but no killer waves were produced in the region, where a larger quake and tsunami in December killed as many as 280,000 people. Coastal residents panicked and raced to higher ground in parts of Sumatra island, while sirens and alarms blared in Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, which were also hit hard in the previous disaster.

Monday's earthquake had a magnitude of 8.7, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Along with the magnitude 9.0 quake on Dec. 26, it ranks among the 10 biggest quakes since 1900. Officials said it was large enough to have produced deadly waves and widespread devastation. People reported feeling the tremor hundreds of miles away in Thailand and Malaysia.

The quake was registered at 11:09 p.m. local time Monday and lasted for several minutes, according to the USGS. The epicenter was 75 miles off the western coast of Sumatra, 120 miles southeast of the earlier temblor.

On Nias island, 45 miles from the epicenter and about 800 miles northwest of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, officials described destruction and significant loss of life.

"About the victims, we cannot count them now. We only know there are many buildings flattened," said Zulkifly Sirait, a police sergeant, quoted by the Reuters news service.

He said there was "a big possibility there will be hundreds of people killed" in Gunungsitoli, the island's main town. Nias, a well-known surfing destination, has a population of 638,000. It was hit hard in the earlier quake, with 340 people reported killed and 10,000 made homeless.

The deputy mayor, Agus Mendrofa, said people had fled the seaside town. "Gunungsitoli is now like a dead town," he said. "The situation here is extreme panic."

In Jakarta, Vice President Jusuf Kalla said in a radio interview Tuesday morning that the death toll on Nias could be between 1,000 and 2,000. He said he based his estimate on reports of destruction rather than confirmed deaths.

In Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province on Sumatra, people reported tremors that lasted several minutes and said power was lost for about 10 minutes. At least 106,000 people were killed in Aceh in the December tsunami.

Residents said they had been instructed in recent community briefings to seek higher ground if they felt a large earthquake. "If things happen, we have to leave," said Iwan, a security guard at a house in downtown Aceh, reached by cell phone.

Refugees who still live in tents and temporary housing streamed along darkened Banda Aceh streets clogged with cars and motorbikes and fled to higher ground. Some cried and clutched children in their arms. Others sought shelter in mosques, which proved resistant in December when the ocean surged ashore.

The Monday quake "was the biggest I've ever felt," said Helene Barnes, regional manager for Asia and Pacific for Fauna & Flora International, an environmental group. But she said that no houses appeared to have collapsed in her area and that her colleagues in Calang on the western coast of Sumatra had reported no damage.

"Here in Banda Aceh, there have been a lot of people panicking. A lot of people running and walking and driving from the sea. It's not an organized evacuation, but lots of people were moving. I can hear lots more vehicles than normal," she said.

At 1:45 a.m., Indonesian Metro TV broadcast footage of a man with a megaphone shouting in Indonesian on the streets of Banda Aceh. "The situation has returned to normal," he announced. "The water is not rising. So you can all go back to your homes."

Governments in other countries issued warnings based on the possibility of a tsunami because of the quake's intensity.

Indian officials activated a disaster program early Tuesday and issued an advisory for eight coastal states, citing the "possibility of this earthquake triggering a tsunami." Dhirendra Singh, a Home Ministry official, said precautions were needed for six to eight hours after the quake. The advisories were dropped Tuesday morning when no tsunami developed.

While officials in Indian Ocean nations have discussed a satellite-based tsunami warning network, it has not yet been implemented. "Our biggest preparation is that there are no people on the coast," said Shivraj Patil, India's home minister. "We are asking people not to panic, but at the same time to be vigilant. Every earthquake does not convert into a tsunami."

Public address systems in the southern state of Tamil Nadu issued alerts and warned some coastal residents to move inland as a precaution. At Port Blair, in India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago off the coasts of Thailand and Burma, officials said sea levels had not changed. Portions of the islands were devastated in the December tsunami.

Sri Lankan officials also held emergency meetings and broadcast warnings. Indian television reported incidents of panic along the Sri Lankan coast, with people fleeing their houses.

In Thailand, officials issued advisories for southern regions where an estimated 5,300 people died in the December tsunami. "Please evacuate to higher places now," said Samith Dhammasaroj, a senior Thai official, in a radio broadcast.

Six Thai provinces were given evacuation orders, including Phuket island, a tourist location that had been luring visitors back with bargains.

Special correspondent Rama Lakshmi in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Suspects in renditions spared Sox logo

AL KAMAN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--Had us worried there for a moment, Boston Red Sox part owner and vice chairman Phillip Morse said he was "stunned" upon hearing reports that his private Gulfstream jet, which had been chartered to the CIA, may have been used for special renditions of terrorism suspects to their native countries for interrogation.

The plane has a small Red Sox logo near the door.

But, he said, "when it's chartered, it never has the logo of the Red Sox on it. They cover it up." Whew.

-File Photo

Phillip Morse, part owner and vice chairman of the Boston Red Sox, charters his private jet to the CIA whom may have reportedly used the jet to interrogate terrorist suspects.

Inventor, flotation vest designer Andrew Toti, 89, dies

MYRNA OLIVER

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Andrew Toti, who designed the Mae West flotation vest that saved thousands of downed World War II pilots including President George H.W. Bush, has died. He was 89.

Toti died March 20 at his rural Modesto, Calif., home of unspecified causes.

"Please tell (your father) a grateful Navy man who benefited from his invention sends his best wishes," former President Bush wrote Toti's daughter, Andrea Pimental of Sacramento, Calif., last fall when the inventor opened his Andrew Toti Museum of Innovations near Modesto.

Bush was wearing a Mae West vest when, as a torpedo bomber pilot, he was shot down over the Pacific during World War II.

The vest came into being because Toti's mother was a worrier. At 16, the youth had acquired a boat and built the engine into a powerhouse, and, because he couldn't swim, she feared he might drown.

To reassure her, Toti invented a personal life preserver.

"The first one was filled with duck feathers," he told The Modesto Bee at the museum's opening. "That was too bulky and heavy, so I switched to air."

The life vest consisted of two pneumatic compartments of rubber-coated yellow fabric that could be inflated separately by blowing into a tube, plus automatic CO2 inflation systems operated by pulling respective cords. The vest was anchored by waist and crotch straps.

The War Department heard about the invention and was so impressed it paid Toti $1,600 for the rights to what was dubbed the Mae West vest after the buxom film star.

"He is a perfect example of the 'can-do' attitude that Americans possess," Rep. Dennis A. Cardoza, D-Calif., said during a speech honoring Toti in Congress last year.

Nobody he ever met, the congressman said, "had done more for his community and the world" than Toti.

-File Photo

Inventor Andrew Toti, 89, passed away on March 20 in his Modesto, California home.

The inventor, who held more than 500 patents, told Parade magazine in 1995 that the key to inventing was to identify a problem or define a need for a new product and then find an elegant solution.

The son of an Italian immigrant farmer, Toti grew up in California's agricultural Central Valley and began inventing at age 9. His first success was a variety of combination lock.

Although he dropped out of high school, he earned a diploma by going to night school, and then studied mechanical engineering by correspondence.

As a boy, he hand-plucked chickens and ducks for his parents. In 1951, he created the automated feather plucker, a device using thousands of rubber "fingers" that were quicker than the human hand. The invention revolutionized the poultry business.

Another of his welcome inventions was the grape-harvesting machine he devised in 1972 for viticulturists Ernest and Julio Gallo.

Toti also designed lightweight construction beams, several variations for both horizontal and vertical blinds, and a pull-tab for soda and beer cans.

A few years ago he co-designed the Endo-Flex endotracheal tube with a flexible tip to aid breathing during surgery. The device was showcased in an episode of the television show "ER" last November with Ray Liotta as guest star.

The indefatigable inventor was unable to perfect one pet project -- a perpetual-motion machine that he believed could deliver an endless power supply. Although many physicists believe such a device is impossible to create, Toti disagreed.

His machine was electromagnetic and mechanical. He told The Modesto Bee last fall that he had achieved a power conversion loss as low as 3 percent, which he considered a record among those working on perpetual motion.

One reason he opened his museum last year, Toti said, was, "We have to teach the young guys, the little guys ... that we exist because of inventors."

"Invention," he said, "is the mother of everything."

A widower, Toti is survived by his daughter, a stepson, Raymond Webster of Crescent City, Calif., one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Michael Jackson breaks silence on Jesse Jackson radio show

AMY ARGETSINGER

THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES--Michael Jackson has been seen more than heard during his trial so far, but those who tuned into the Rev. Jesse Jackson's nationally syndicated radio program Easter morning witnessed the pop star's soft, tenor voice reminiscing, dishing and proclaiming his innocence. Jackson broke the silence usually maintained by defendants embroiled in high-profile criminal trials and insisted he is not guilty of the child molestation charges he faces, and compared himself to other "black luminaries" persecuted by false accusations such as Nelson Mandela and long-ago boxing champion Jack Johnson. He also alluded to a "conspiracy" involving control of his music catalogue, which includes rights to songs by the Beatles and Elvis Presley.

But he demurred when pressed to elaborate, citing a court-imposed gag order that bars him from discussing his trial in more detail. As a result, much of the 42-minute exchange between the two newsmaking Jacksons fell into the pattern of the jolly, loquacious celebrity interviews seen on late-night talk shows and Barbara Walters specials.

There were shout-outs to the pros who influenced him--Diana Ross, James Brown, the Motown songwriting team of Holland-Dozier-Holland--and bittersweet memories of his pre-fame childhood, dancing to the beat of a washing machine at a Gary, Ind., laundry as a crowd gathered to watch. There was at least one stop-the-tabloid-presses oddball revelation of the kind the world has come to expect from the King of Pop:

"Elizabeth Taylor used to feed me, hand-feed me at times," Jackson disclosed matter-of-factly, "because I do have a problem with eating."

The interview came on the eve of what could be a turning point in Jackson's trial, now entering its fifth week in Santa Maria, Calif. Judge Rodney S. Melville is scheduled to rule Monday whether to allow the jury to hear testimony from at least one young man who prosecutors allege Jackson molested years ago. Jackson, 46, was never charged in a previous case, though he reached an out-of-court settlement with a boy in 1993.

Legal experts said such evidence, if allowed, could have a devastating effect on Jackson's defense--and his already scarred public image. Some aspects of the radio interview, with his accounts of a childhood cut short by the astonishing success of his family's Jackson 5 music act, seemed designed to reclaim the public's sympathy.

Jackson described leaving school after fourth or fifth grade and being tutored so he could keep up with a rigorous schedule of touring and recording. Across the street from the group's recording studio was a public park, he recalled, "and I would hear the roar of the kids, the throwing of the basketball. I would feel kind of sad because I wanted to go to that park, but I knew I had a different job to do."

Later, he said he thinks former child stars like himself "try to compensate for the loss" of their childhood. "That's why you see, like, you may see a theme park or amusement rides or that kind of environment at my home. But I like to do it to help other children who are less fortunate than I am, kids who are terminally ill, kids with diseases, poor children from the inner cities, you know, the ghettos, to let them see the mountains or to go on the rides or to watch movies or to have some ice cream."

Other highlights from the interview included:

--Namedropping: "When I was a little kid, Fred Astaire used to always tell me how he felt in his heart he believed I would be a very special star, and I used to just look at him like, what are you talking about? But he could see."

--The influences for "Thriller": "I used to see signs of graffiti saying 'disco sucks.' ... Disco was just a happy medium of making people dance, but it was so popular that the society was turning against it. ... I loved the album that Tchaikovsky did, the 'Nutcracker' Suite. It's an album where every song is a great song. (I decided) I'm going to do an album where every song is a hit record."

--How he stays slim: "I'm a great believer in holistic natural foods and eating herbs and things--you know, God's medicines instead of Western chemicals, not those things."

--How he learned to moonwalk: "These black children in the ghetto, they have the most phenomenal sense of rhythm of anybody on the earth. I get a lot of ideas from just watching these black children. ... I saw this kid sliding backwards. ... I took a mental movie of it, I went to my hotel room in Encino and I started to just do it and dance and perfect it. ... It definitely started in black culture, no doubt!"

In closing, Jackson addressed his fans "in every corner of the earth, every nationality, every race, every language," thanking them for their prayers and understanding. "Please be patient and believe in me because I'm completely innocent."

A former CIA operative's mission: 'Wife' support

RICHARD LEIBY

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON--CIA operative-turned-Broadway-producer Anthony Marshall will return to his old Washington stomping grounds when the Tony Award-winning production "I Am My Own Wife" opens at the National Theatre on Tuesday. "I can't help but feel nostalgic," the 81-year-old Renaissance man tells us.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning one-man play stars Jefferson Mays as Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a real-life German transvestite who survived both the Nazi and communist regimes in Berlin. Marshall is co-producing the play with his wife, Charlene, and Broadway veteran David Richenthal. "'Wife' is a personal drama and a historical drama," Marshall explains. And given his own background, "I appreciate that."

Marshall's storied resume starts in World War II, when he served in the Marines and took a piece of shrapnel on Iwo Jima. He later graduated from Brown University, worked on Cold War ops for the CIA, served as a diplomat in Turkey, became ambassador to the Malagasy Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya and the Seychelles, worked as an entrepreneur in Nigeria and eventually found time to author seven books.

When he lived in Washington during his CIA days in the 1950s, "there was very little theater," Marshall says, "but I did attend the National Theatre." He first produced a play in 1982. These days, Marshall says his busy non-retirement in New York resembles a trip to the salad bar. "At 81, I look at life as a chef's salad. You take some ingredients out, you put some others in. I love chef's salad. That's my life."

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing to "Voice" my outrage in regards to last week's issue featuring that picture of a young man playing catch on the green.

I've always known that this rag you refer to as a newspaper was full of trash, but never have I been so insulted by anything featured in The Voice.

You know, not everyone can throw a baseball. How insensitive can you get? I'm tired of all these athletically inclined students being featured, looking like Greek Gods, with their bodies bronzed and buff. Where's the representation for those who can't even hit a beach ball with a tennis racket? The ninety-pound weaklings? The members of The Gaming Commission? Where's our place in the sun, damnit?

On top of this blasphemy that is a student enjoying his athletic talents, that picture drudges up bad memories of the Red Sox riots we had this past October. Not only was I beaten to a bloody pulp by angry apartment dwellers, but I was also forced to look at random breasts for far too long. I'm still attending group therapy sessions in order to get those visions out of my head.

Before you print something that offensive in the paper, you need to think about us, the girly-boys, the ones who are never represented. I'm tired of being overlooked.

I sincerely do hope that the newspaper gets a reporter and a photographer up to the 3rd floor bathroom of Scanlon when I decide to do something amazing, like crack a raw egg using only my rear end or eat a roll of cookie dough between two glazed doughnuts. That's when I'll shine. That's when I'll be free. Free at last, free at last, THANK GOD ALMIGHTY, I'M FREE AT LAST!

- Richard Lemming
Class of 2008

Dear John,

I cannot believe how you acted towards me last night at Craig's apartment. I told you that there was nothing between us and that you need to trust me. Well, guess what?! Now there IS something between us! A whole lot of lovin'! What is your freakin' problem? I only had like, eight beers and then I couldn't remember anything. So even if I was all over him, you can't even get you know, like, mad and stuff. I just want to tell you that we are over, like, completely. I took you off my instant messenger and if you try to call my celly, I'll get Craig to beat you up, for serious. I just wanted to let you know.

- Rhonda

Dear Editorial Dudes,

I was just trying to read The Voice, when I came across a problem. Could you guys like, use shorter words? Cuz sometimes I wanna like, read the stuff and then I like can't. so if you could like , keep the word to like, two syllables then that would be great. Actually the word syllable is three syllables, so yeah, don't use that one either. I was just like, giving you an example of what not to do, yah know.

Anyways is this letter really goin to be printed? Cuz that would be awesome, I would be kind of famous. Sooo....ummm yeah. You dudes are pretty cool! Hey do you think I could get like, a one page column on like, me? Cause I think a lot of people would read it. I could like use it as an ass rake you know. Rakin' in the ass. Yeah... that sounds good. So how do we do this? Do you like call me or do I call you...cause either way im cool. If your really want me in the paper you should like put an ad in the paper and Ill totally get back to you. Just make sure not to use big words cuz as you know they tend to confuse me.

Peace out playa playa,
Ivanna Humpalot ...hehe get it

To the Editor:

When I came here in the fall I was very pleased with the student newspaper. It was funny, informative and an overall great read.

Unfortunately, I had to leave for some time and only recently came back to campus where I promptly cracked open a fresh copy of my beloved Voice.

To my dismay, I noticed the horoscopes were no longer included.

WTF?!?!?!?!

I bet a bunch of namby-pamby-whimpy-simpy-ugly-nincompoops got all offended and decided to make a stink.

I'm right, aren't I? Oh well. Other than that, the paper still rocks and I heart it muchly.

Sometimes I take more than the allowed one copy and lay them down on my bed so I can be closer to the paper. I love it that much.

Good work all, keep it up and I love that Engel girl. She's got spunk. Don't you get rid of her, ya hear? Hey, maybe I could get her number..

Have mercy!

- Jesse Catsopolous
Full House

Through the voice of God

"JESUS' ADVOCATE"
BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

Ladies and gentlemen, I owe someone an apology. This is an apology long overdue and I feel that it should be made publicly. For too long I have taken the Lord too lightly, not caring whose feelings were hurt in the process of my sacrilegious erusade. You see, folks, while I was sleeping not but three nights previous to this very date, I had a dream. In this dream, Jesus himself came to me and delivered me a message. Our Lord Jesus told me that I needed to stop sinning, for it will indeed have consequences in the afterlife.

What I had failed to realize before I was born again was that Jesus is not like these people who misinterpret his words and use them against one another. Jesus was God in the flesh. Jesus was God with the ability to understand human emotions and sentiments. Jesus is God and God is love, and as long as I know how to love I know I'm still alive.

One of my ultimate fantasies is to exist in the medieval times when the greatest threat to any human was a sword, not a gun. This is where Jesus took me. We walked around the dirt streets bringing food and water to those who were less fortunate and during this time I realized that Jesus is not my enemy. My only true enemy had been my general hatred for all of humanity. Jesus taught me that I couldn't condemn all of humanity for the actions of the elite. If He himself had felt this way, where would we be today? Perhaps our sins would never have been forgiven.

He did not shy away from the lepers who lined the streets, reaching out to touch us. For some reason, I did not shy away either. At first I felt fear, but this fear soon turned to a warmth that spread throughout my entire body. I remember as we walked along the streets feeling full of inexplicable energy. Soon thereafter, I found myself on top of a mountain, looking down upon our lord as he struggled to carry a monstrous crucifix to where I stood.

> "I vow from this day forward, I will live my life for Jesus Christ."

This is a moment in human history that depresses all of us. Whether or not we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Messiah, the suffering he endured at the hands of Man is simply inexcusable. I closed my eyes as the crucifix was erected in the very spot in which I stood. Apparently, I was now a specter, witnessing the crucifixion first hand to take the message back to the world that we need to accept Jesus as our Lord. I couldn't open my eyes and yet I could see it all happen. The blood dripped from His feet onto my head, drenching me in what we claim to drink every Sunday at Communion. I was bathing in the blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

After this morbid scene finally came to a close I awoke to find myself drenched in my own cold sweat. This I vow from this day forward. I will live my life for Jesus Christ. I will not, however live my life for the church, which claims to worship our Lord. Jesus lives within each of us and He told me that all we need to do to attain salvation is live ethical, moral lives. Don't hate your fellow man, follow the ten commandments, and live each day as if it were your last, because you never know, it really might be. Thank you for your time and forgive me for my insolence and accept that I will no longer wish for the end of humanity. I will live to serve my fellow man and I hope you will all do the same.

The Voice

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RULER OF EVERYTHING
~~MATTHEW BERNAT~~
LISANDRA BILLINGS

TRASH MANAGEMENT
EMILY ENGEL

SECOND BANANAS
PETE NORWOOD
SARAH CAGAN

BIGGEST CAMERA ON CAMPUS
MIKE COUGHLIN

SLAVES
BRIDGET GLEASON
DAVID PAGEAU

FORCED TO BABY-SIT
DR. GLEN BREWSTER
DR. GEORGE LAYNG

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

When I'm President

"And Justice For All"
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

n the 2020 election, I will be eligible to run for President of the United States. I figure by that time, hopefully we will already have had a woman in the White House but I wouldn't mind being the first. My running mate will be my friend Brittany because she's awesome and she likes the same music as me, the only things that really matter. The Vice-President doesn't really do anything anyways. How hard could it really be running the most powerful country in the world? Hey, if Bush Jr. can slide by and get elected to two terms, I figure this job will be a cakewalk. And the way the job market is going, it might be the only job left that I am qualified to fill.

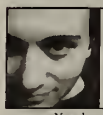
I have already thought long and hard about what the first things I would do when I am elected. First, I would take lots of money from Bill Gates, Donald Trump, P. Diddy, and all those other guys who have way too much and give it to people who actually will spend it on food rather than gold-plated toilets.

Next, I would put Dick Cheney on a plane and send him to live in Iraq because what goes around comes around. Plus he's really scary. I would bring back Social Security because it probably will have been dismantled by the time I take office. Old people really need money to buy their medications and taking that away from them is just plain mean. Health care would be free because getting sick is no fun, why should you have to pay for it? I would fire everyone in Congress because most of them are old crusty white guys who don't really care about the people anyway. I would become the Ultimate President and make all the decisions. Let's face it, this whole democracy thing wasn't really working anyways. (Well maybe for the rich white guys. But for the African Americans who couldn't vote, not so much). If America turned into a monarchy, it would make ruling the country a whole lot easier.

I would make sure that the economy was always making money because being poor really sucks. The government would provide actual relief funds to other countries, not the fake kind where it looks like we're helping them but in fact we're just helping ourselves. I know we didn't get to be the richest country in the world by playing nice but we have so much, we really should learn to share. Another thing I would do is provide the media with enough money to actually report the news. No more of this "corporate-friendly, White-House approved" stuff, I want the real thing. And Bill O'Reilly can go on the same plane with Dick Cheney because we don't really need him either.

As you can see, when I become President, the world will be a much better place. Free health care, money for food and medication, and Dick Cheney in another country, sounds like a great place to live. If you like what you hear, look for me on the campaign trail in the near future. I'll be the one kissing all the babies and shaking hands with the people.

God bless our leader



"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice Columnist

You know, I've been thinking lately about George W. Bush, perhaps even more than he's been thinking about me. I've been considering his presidency and his person, his successes and failures, and what implications his actions will have on the future.

Now, I've said some nasty things about President Bush over the last year and a half of columns. I've called him a "pencil-necked fascist" and accused him of cannibalism. I've implied he achieved physical congress with his mother, and suggested he slept his way through college. Some of this was meant as a literal accusation based on observation, while the rest was more in the line of childish name-calling. George Bush, after all, isn't a fascist.

That said, I've been considering his side of things, and have come to realize that I may have erred in my harsh judgment of him. It is, amazingly enough, entirely possible that George Bush is the best thing since, dare I say, sliced white bread?

His plans, which I have long considered delusional ejaculations of egocentric overcompensation and messianic prick waving, may in fact be the signs of a new, stronger, simpler America. Perhaps subtly, tolerance, and nuance truly have failed, and Bush's new strategy of a more pitcher-catcher foreign policy is, sadly, the right way to go. Maybe peace can really only be effected by prolonged, goalless war?

Let's think about this like we want to believe. Maybe we really do just need to force our ways upon certain portions of the world. Okay, Saddam Hussein wasn't a treat to the US. And yes, the President's lies are tantamount to treason, but so what? The truth is that the ends justify the means. Saddam Hussein was a bad, bad man. Sure, he was a marginally secular leader in a part of the world filled with xenophobic theocracies, but he was still a monster. The Iraqis really are better off now.

No, not all of them, of course. War is Hell. Being invaded is demeaning and infuriating, especially if it's by a people much more wealthy than yourself, whose wealth comes in part from your own resources. And yes, this is made worse by the terrible casualties inflicted by misunderstandings and overreactions that are inevitable in occupying a country as large, populous, and armed as Iraq. There will be hundred, thousands, even tens of thousands of people crying for American blood. We cannot help that.

But under all that rage and indignation are the seeds for something better. Under Saddam and his sons after him, the Iraqi people would dwell in fear of violent state oppression to be broken up only by periodic civil wars. Under the guiding hand of the US, the Iraqi people can look forward to a slowly brightening future. Of course we're going to set up a puppet regime in Iraq and exploit their oil. It sounds evil and horrible and scary, but accept it. Change will be gradual, but it will be there. Over time, the Iraqi government will become more and more independent, and the Iraqi people will be eased from under the boot of the US's self-interested-but-well-meaning by proxy dictatorship into something resembling true self rule.

The course will be long, and yes, full of blown and battered bits of little boys and girls killed by avoidable and unavoidable mistakes. These little lambs are the heavy price we must pay with our conscience, and the Iraqis must pay with their tears, for the better world to come. We will have our Abu Ghraibs, our atrocities. But we must never lose sight of the eventual payoff, the world where tyranny no longer threatens the Arab people, and the seeds of discontent afar never threaten us at home.

For those of you whole dislike W, simply think of him as an unwitting messiah. Like King Cyrus of Persia, who freed the Jews from Babylon as an afterthought to his conquests, President Bush may accomplish much long-term good despite whatever you may think of him. And, even if you reject all that, and believe me not that George W. Bush is exactly what this country, this world needs, you must concede one final point:

They're only Arabs. I mean, come on.

Don't worry, be happy

"Campus Karma"
By Sarah Cagan
Voice Columnist

Most of you that know me as a sarcastic bitch for lack of a better word, I constantly wear black and I own a plethora of chains. But if you really got to know me you would find out the real me. As with most people who put up a front, I have a secret world and I am going to let you in on it. Inside I am not the rotting person you would imagine. I am all about daisies and sunshine. I love pink and all the stereotypes that follow.

People it is time to shed the pretenses. Let the real you into the world and with it all the warm fuzzy good karma. It is not too late to let peace and harmony spread throughout our community. There should be no reason to lock our doors, or our hearts for that matter. It is spring; this means it is time to appreciate the flowers and baby animals. Reclaim the lost childhood innocence and find a way to exist content.

Now is the time to shed that winter chill and thaw out with the warm weather. Let go of all those fears and adult worries, recognize that you are still young and celebrate it. Great island philosophers once said "Don't worry, be happy!"

What's that you say? I'm making you nauseous? This is what happens when you try being friendly. People either think you are a pedophile or insane. Well fine then! Go into your dark world of anxiety and oppression. Have fun living a useless life of catch up and failure. Don't worry I won't bother you anymore, obviously you would much rather be unhappy. Well have fun with your desperate attempts at humanization. You are going to die someday anyways. That's right you have a terminal case of life. And I hope you have a slow painful death! People who can't appreciate puppies and rainbows deserve a torturous end.

Oh yeah, have a wonderful day.

Voice editor finally getting help

Jane Plain
Voice Reporter

Voice Editor Emily Engel was carted away in a straitjacket and taken to a local mental health facility to take sensitivity classes during last week's Voice meeting. Reading people's letters to the editor finally pushed her over the edge, causing her to start yelling and knocking over furniture.

Five police officers were needed to restrain Engel. During the whole event, Engel was said by witnesses to be screaming, "What the hell is this?! Get out of here! We have a paper to get to press! Get off me!"

None of the witnesses were sure who made the call and officers would not reveal any names.

"Miss Engel is full of negativity and needs to cleanse her spirit," said holistic health expert and staff member at the undisclosed facility, Linda Jordan.

Jordan said that Engel has been placed in a padded cell and only allowed to have her straitjacket removed once she agreed to take yoga and sensitivity classes, as well as submit to a strict diet of tofu and fruit juice.

"It's about time someone got her off that staff," said WSC junior Daisy May. "I mean, seriously, her whole anti-drinking standpoints were getting old. Now excuse me, it's time for my naked keg stand."

"There's a sweet, gentle young woman waiting inside of Miss Engel and we are going to help that young woman blossom and join us," Jordan said.

Arts & Entertainment

Bands chosen for spring weekend

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

For those people whose tastes run along a slightly darker line, you will be pleased to have been informed that Order of Vladd is set to come to Westfield State College for Spring Weekend along with one other lesser-known band. Fans of Order of Vladd would probably have heard of other European bands, Cradle of Filth and Dimmu Borgir. Some kntow that Cradle of Filth has been banned from touring in America due to graphic violence that is both depicted and performed at their shows.

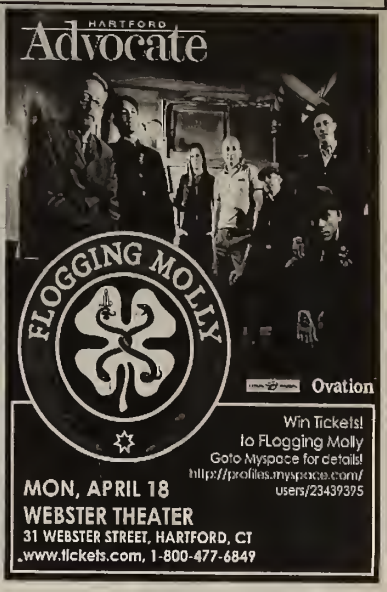
This begs the question: so who is Order of Vladd? Order of Vladd is actually another European band, appropriately enough, they hail from Transylvania. Our CAB was hesitant to choose Order of Vladd to come to Westfield State College due to the fact that they use heavy vampirie themes during their shows. They have been known to actually bite people's necks to the point of drawing blood.

Why would a band like this be coming to campus? Apparently, according to studies conducted by our music department, there are quite a lot of rockers on this campus. Apparently, the rocker to hip-hopper ratio on this campus is 4 to 1, with the odds favoring the rockers. Since Order of Vladd has not yet toured in America they thought they would take this opportunity to reach out to the death metal fans on campuses all across the United States.

CAB has advised that those who may be squeamish about blood or those who fear getting hurt in mosh pits should not be present at the set of Order of Vladd. However, they express that they are sure that Order of Vladd will not be biting any of their fans while in the United States, and according to state and local legislation only animal blood may be used in any sort of entertainment. There is sure to be a lot of blood poured out onto the crowd, Order of Vladd's management told our CAB.

CAB admits that they are concerned for what may be the consequences for being the first college in the U.S. to have Order of Vladd on campus. This concern stems from some heavy rioting that happened at all but three of the shows that they performed at their last tour in Europe. A total of three people were killed and several more were injured after all was said and done in Europe. However, the Massachusetts State Police has assigned a number of officers to assist with the show, in case things get out of hand. The State Police have promised that there will be at least as many police here on spring weekend as there were during our riots during the World Series. Westfield State's Public Safety has promised that they will be completely staffed for the event.

To all those who have not seen an animal sacrifice, or experienced any twisted pleasures, this is sure to be a cultural eye opener for you! Due to a resurgence of death metal fans across the United States, many new bands have slated tours through our country. George Bush has even noticed this, expressing his concern for what this could do to the Evangelical communities across the country. There are likely to be several protests, especially in the so-called "bible belt" in the southwestern states.



News Shows Announced at The Webster Theater
Visit them online at www.webstertheater.com

Tuesday, April 12th (Underground)
Sesame Street Live!
$12 adv, 6pm

Sunday, April 17th
Burt Reynolds sings The Blues
7pm, $13 adv

Monday, April 18th
Crinkly Bones: Voices of the Elderly
$17.50 adv

Thursday, April 28th (Underground)
Jesse & The Rippers
$13.50 adv, 6pm

Friday, April 29th
The Zack Attack
7pm, $21 adv

Monday, May 2nd (Underground)
An Evening with Fran Drescher
6pm, $10 adv

Thursday, May 5th (underground)
The Tony Danza Tap Dance Extravaganza
6pm, $12 adv

Scorsese, De Niro Reunite for "Taxi Driver"

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

It's been nearly ten years since the last time Martin Scorsese directed Robert De Niro in a movie. Now, the dynamic duo has returned for one of the most unlikely motion pictures of all, a sequel to their 1976 classic "Taxi Driver."

"Taxi Driver 2" is set 30 years after the first film and continues the story of cab driver Travis Bickle (De Niro). This film finds Travis married to Lucy (Marcia Gay Harden), the sister of Betsy, his lady from the first film.

After the shootout that concluded the first film, the prologue tells us, Travis was asked to become an undercover FBI agent, an offer he graciously accepted. He now drives taxis as a way to do his FBI work.

His latest mission has him trying to determine the mastermind behind a planned assassination on a presidential candidate. What a twist of fate, as Travis tried to assassinate a presidential candidate in movie No. 1.

As it turns out, he needs a partner to crack this crime. The FBI assigns him a partner named Iris Johnson (Jodie Foster). Their first meeting is a classic reunion, as Travis discovers it's the same Iris he rescued from the streets 30 years ago!

Together they try to figure out who wants to kill presidential candidate Mark Palantine (Jude Law), the son of Charles Palantine, the man Travis tried to gun down.

The tight-plotted mystery leads to a cover-up involving Iris's father, Richard Steensman (Clint Eastwood), a successful business tycoon, and Travis's son Johnny (Colin Farrell).

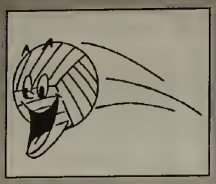
Seeing De Niro and Foster together again is a joy to watch, as they trade jabs at each other and reflect on many fond moments from the first film. Harden offers strong support as Travis's wife, while Eastwood and Farrell share the classic scenery-chewing roles. Law is quietly powerful as the scared Congressman worried about his life.

The real stars, though, are Scorsese and screenwriter Paul Schrader, who penned the first film. They managed to do the impossible. They crafted a believable continuation of a film that had no right to a sequel. Scorsese's direction is strong, which does make up for a few plot holes that Schrader has, despite the fine script.

Scorsese also appears in the film as Travis's boss in the FBI, a humorous scene in which the two discuss, amongst all things, how to properly eat spaghetti. This is one of the lighter moments in an otherwise gritty film.

De Niro's Travis is still obsessed with guns and shooting pimps in his free time, but he is strictly focused on his job when he needs to be. De Niro, with this film, finally returns to the form that won him two Oscars and established him as one of the finest actors alive.

The reunion of De Niro and Scorsese for the most unlikely of sequels, "Taxi Driver 2," is definitely better than anyone expected. Revisiting characters from a 30-year old classic seems to be the creative spark both De Niro and Scorsese needed to get their careers back on track.



Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:

-Co-ed Sand Volleyball

-Floor Hockey (Men & Women's)

-Sport Trivia

-Softball (Men, Women's & Co-ed)

-Ultimate Frisbee

DODGEBALL PLAYOFFS WILL BE STARTING NEXT WEEK!

IM BOARD WILL BE MEETING NEXT WEEK - CALL THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS!

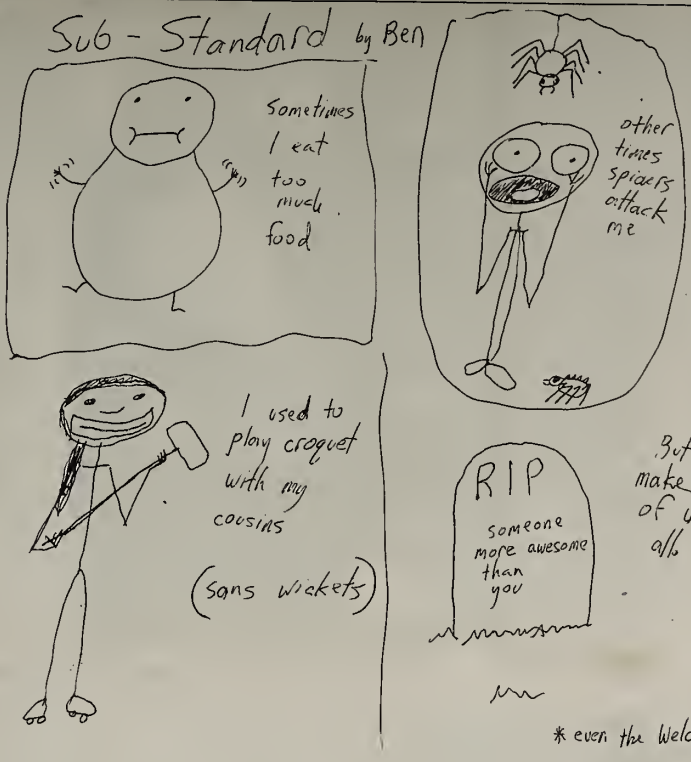
Anyone playing intramural floor hocket MUST purchase a mouthguard! Mouthguards can be purchased in the intramural office (Parenzo 169) between the hours of 12 p.m. and 10 p.m.

OUTDOOR SOCCER PLAYOFFS WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK!

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!



5 D Dodgeball Tournament
April 6 2005
6 p.m. Woodward Center

$ 10 per team

$1 per spectator

Sign up in intramurals by March 31st or contact Matt Mosher. ext. 7433 or Steve Senecal ext. 7403

Male and Females divisions

To benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

Looking for a TV?

12 inch screen, built in VHS player, cable ready, black with color picture. Optional Spanish instructions available...This one's a beaut, sure to sell fast! Looking to get $20 but price negotiable. Leave a message at EXT. 5431.

Mon 4/4	Open Woodward Gym 2:00 p.m. - 2:04 p.m. WOOD	Cooking with Ethel 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TWR	Calvinball: WSC VS. CSW Oogy p.m. - Boogy p.m. Parenzo Gym
Tue 4/5	Reagan/Nixon Memorial Tree Planting - WSC Republicans Club 10:00 a.m ELY	Ironing with Ethel 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TWR	Aerobic Striptease Lesson - Sponsored by Month Celebrating Women 11:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. SBH
Wed 4/6	Commuter Breakfast - Free bacon 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. The Nest	Speaking Politely with Ethel 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TWR	Call your mother and say hello 6:30 p.m. Your room
Thurs 4/7	Beer Bash 9:00 a.m. - I dunno. whenever Campus Green	Knitting with Ethel 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TWR	Attack Dog Training Session 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. WOOD
Fri 4/8	Campus Fun Run 5:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. Western Avenue	Breakdancing with Ethel 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TWR	Peanutbutter-Jelly Time! 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EML
Sat 4/9	Who cares, it's Saturday. Time to sleep and maybe drive out to Denny's.		
Sun 4/10	Procrastinate all day Scramble to finish homework 1:15 a.m. - 4:00 a.m.		

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X April 4, 2005 Issue XXI

Temporary changes to be made to Dining Commons.

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Hear from the new Editor This weeks Ed. Desk

pg. 2

Dane Cook not bitter about being shafted.

pg. 1

Hide the garlic! Order of Vladd to perform Spring Weekend.

pg. 9

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | April 11, 2005 | Issue XXII

Carwein finds her place on campus

By Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief

The wrought iron fence that surrounds Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) keeps the city out

High above the fence, abandoned apartments stare down as students walk to classes while presidents and officials from Westfield State College (WSC), Holyoke Community College (HCC), Greenfield Community College (GCC) and STCC sit down to breakfast on the seventh floor of Chibelli Hall at STCC with area legislators in suits and ties. They hope to bring back much needed funding from Beacon Hill.

Vicky Carwein is working through her first year as president at Westfield State and takes the podium as the morning's first presenter. Forks and knives cut through bacon and eggs as Carwein begins her presentation on the "Economic Impact of Our Four Colleges on our Region."

Facts and figures fly about a region that Carwein is still getting to know, having moved from Tacoma Washington during the summer.

Fact: The four colleges are the sixth largest employer in the region.

Fact: The total direct spending of the colleges equal $108 million.

Fact: 90% of the graduates from the colleges stay in Massachusetts.

"We are educating the Commonwealth," Carwein said.

Large windows run from her right until the back of room framed the snow-covered Holyoke Mountain range, giving a panoramic view to those in attendance.

Dressed in a gray flannel suit jacket and black slacks Carwein's appearance and presentation were straightforward

Photo by: Matthew Bernat

Vicky Carwein meets with the school's Development Team. Left to right: Barry Maloney, Naci Savidio, Bob Zierneck and Vicky Carwein.

Carwein - Page 3

Vegetarians and Sodexo make up after spring fling

By Jason Young & Megan Gallagher
Voice Reporters

Daisy had her student identification card swiped for dinner at the dining commons last Wednesday night.

She walked over to the entrée station to check out the vegetarian dish but was completely confused with what she saw.

"Instead of having a vegetarian entrée like usual, they were using the spot to carve into a large slab of corned beef," Daisy said. "It was such a slap in the face."

She asked the server what kind of broth the carrots were cooked in. The girl looked closely at the pan of baby carrots, shrugged her shoulders and said she didn't know.

The server then told Daisy that the vegetarian dish for the evening was eggplant parmesan and pasta.

"But it was also what was for lunch and we can't live off pasta," Daisy said. "It's not healthy."

Daisy removed herself from line the and walked passed the tray return area to a table with a box on it

Vegetarians - Page 3

C.I.O. resigns after four years

By Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief

After 4 years as Westfield State's Chief Information Officer (CIO) Stephan Reynolds has resigned that position, leaving some members of the campus community glad for his absence.

In a memo sent on March 24, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Joan Rasool thanked Reynolds for, "leadership in bringing the Department of Information Technology to new levels of sophistication and service."

The memo was distributed to faculty and staff.

Reynolds was hired in the summer of 2001 and by previous college president Frederick Woodward. The position Reynolds applied for was advertised in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Springfield News, and higher education related publications.

The ad described the position of CIO as being "responsible for all aspects of administrative and academic information technology including networking, architecture, web applications development, learning at a distance, systems implementation in a SCT environment..." among other responsibilities.

Qualifications included at least 10 years of experience and a Masters degree in a related field was required when Reynolds applied.

Biology professor Buzz Hoagland was on the selection committee that submitted Reynolds name along with two others to then president Frederik Woodward to hire someone to oversee the campus technologies.

"He was the least preferred of the three candidates," said Hoagland, "I'm either the first or second happiest man on campus to see him go."

Resigns - Page 2

WSC laundry still cheaper than most

By Steve Bruso
Voice Reporter

Justin "Trench" Trenchard opened the door to his GMC pickup truck, slung his bag inside, and turned the key, bringing the engine roaring to life. He was driving from his apartment on Orange Street to go to Westfield State College. But he wasn't going to class.

He was going to the college to do his laundry.

One big issue amongst college students is the cost of doing laundry, and upon walking into one of the college laundromats, one can hear the grumbled complaints of students as they feed quarters to the hungry washing machines and dryers.

But despite the complaints, students at Westfield State College are actually saving some money on their laundry costs.

At Westfield State College, the cost for the washing machines and the dryers are $1.25 per cycle,

Photo by: Bridget Gleason

These machines keep the clothes of WSC students clean and fresh.

compared to laundromats in Westfield that charge as much as $1.75 for a washer cycle and $2.00 for a dryer cycle, all for the same amount of time. Washers run for about 45 minutes and the dryer runs for 60 minutes.

"Where I usually go, it costs me 7 bucks," said Trenchard, a junior at Westfield State College. "The school costs me 5 bucks."

At Quick Stop Laundromat, found across from McDonald's on North Elm Street, the washer cycle is the same price at the college—$1.25 per cycle—but the dryer cycles cost 25 cents for ten minutes, which makes

Laundry - Page 2

New bill to address increasing college costs

By Steve Bruso
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College student Jen Wyse won't be able to afford the expenses of college next year, and will have to live off-campus in order to continue her college career.

Wyse, like many other college students and their families, feels the burden of college expenses sitting heavily on her shoulders.

A recent report by College Board revealed that college tuition has increased by 46 percent since fall 2000 for public four-year colleges and universities, and only a year after a record 14 percent increase, college tuition was raised again by 10.5 percent. Even after controlling for inflation, this is the largest four-year increase on record.

An additional problem is that financial and grant aid aren't keeping up with rising tuition costs. A College Board report on trends in financial aid showed that while college tuition increased by $1,624 from 2000 to 2004, the grant and financial aid only increased by $631 per student during that period, leaving a $993 gap between tuition increases and aid increases.

Bill - Page 2

Correction: In the April 4 edition of the Voice Pete Norwood was incorrectly attributed to an article written by Dan Cooper.

A diverse array of columns

pg. 9 & 10

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Bill

"Everyone goes to college, you're expected to go to college, but how do you pay for it?" said Christine Irujo, a professor of economics at Westfield State College.

Currently, there is a bill in the House of Representatives that aims to answer just that.

The Make College Affordable Act of 2005 is a bill that will attempt to make college education more affordable by providing a full tax deduction for college expenses and interest on student loans. But it only covers the amount the consumer actually pays. It does not include scholarships or any other "free" money given for the student to attend college.

Tax deduction reduces the taxable income of a person, allowing them to pay less in taxes. If a household makes 100,000 dollars income, and 40,000 dollars is spent on college expenses, this bill would tax the household as if it made 60,000 dollars.

But how much money will this actually save the consumer?

"It depends what tax bracket you're in as to how much this will save you," Irujo said. " For people who make a lot of money, they'll save more."

According to the IRS's 2005 Tax Rate Schedule, if someone earned $7,000, they pay 10%, or 700 dollars. Someone earning $100,000 would pay $22,506.50, or roughly 22.5% of their total income.

"The way it's written the rich get more than the poor people because if I'm rich, I'm in a higher tax bracket, so if I'm in the 35% tax bracket, I save $3500. If I'm poor and in the 10% bracket, I only save $1000 dollars," Irujo said.

In addition to alleviating the burden of college expenses, this bill could possibly open up new opportunities for students. "We had the grades to go to a better college but this was cheaper and that was a huge factor in determining what college I went to," Wyse said, "But if there was a tax break or something, it might open up more doors."

Even though it would seem to benefit the wealthy more than the poor, many feel that it's still better than nothing. "I think it might help out a lot of families," Jen Wyse said, a junior at Westfield State College, "It's hard to come up with something fair for everybody."

"I wouldn't say 'No don't pass it', because even if the wealthy get a bigger write off than the poor, I would rather see the poor person get to deduct $1000 even if that means the rich guy gets to deduct $3500, because it's helping that poor person put their kid through college," Irujo said.

Laundry

a 60 minute cycle cost $1.50.

At Stanley Laundromat, located on White Street next to Walgreens, their washers have different rates. The double-loader, which is about the same size as the college washing machines, costs $1.75 per cycle. The triple-loader costs $3.00 a cycle, and the biggest washer costs $4.00 a cycle. Their dryers cost $1.00 but they run for only 30 minutes, which makes a 60 minute cycle, equivalent to the college's, cost $2.00.

"The laundromat sucks," Trenchard said.

And Trenchard isn't alone in his venture to the college to do laundry. Two of his roommates, Brian Grady and Mike Perry, both juniors at Westfield State College, also travel from their off-campus apartment to the college to do their laundry. The laundry machines on campus are Maytag high-efficiency machines that come through the college's contract with Mac Gray laundry services.

"The laundry contract is actually for all state colleges, which comes through the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA)" said Jon Conlogue, the Director of Residential Life at Westfield State College.

Although the prices at the college laundromats are cheaper than those in the Westfield area, some students still feel it is too expensive.

"I think the laundry facilities are a little over-priced," said Kristin Clark, a sophomore at Westfield State College. "They should be one dollar at the most. I probably spend about five dollars every time I do laundry here, and I think that as a college student, that is a lot of money."

Conlogue sympathizes with students like Clark: "I can understand that students don't always have five dollars on them for laundry and that sometimes it's hard to come up with the money."

The issue of laundry being expensive and inconvenient has come up before the college several times, and Conlogue hopes a new system will be more convenient for students. "Many private schools have a policy where laundry is built into students' fees, so the students don't have to pay the machines every time they want to do laundry," Conlogue said.

"We're looking to do something like this with I.D. cards, kind of like Flex Dollars. Money is put into the account at the beginning of the semester and then when the student wants to do laundry, they just swipe the card instead of paying each time," Conlogue said.

This new system involving the I.D. cards for laundry is hoped to be in place by Fall 2006 through the same company that currently holds a contract with Massachusetts state colleges, Mac Gray. "We've had good service with them so far. The machine's capacity is good, and environmentally, the washers and dryers are better and run more efficiently, which is what makes them appealing to the MSCBA," Conlogue said.

According to Mac Gray's website, they claim that their washers and dryers run so efficiently, they'll cut your water bill by 50%, your gas bill by 60%, reduce drying time by 21%, and will save you $2,500 annually.

The same washers and dryers will be installed in the new apartment complex along with a change machine for student convenience.

"If students have a problem with any of the machines, they should report it as soon as possible," Conlogue said. "There's nothing worse than being in the laundry room waiting behind 8 other people because a few of the machines don't work."

From the Editor's Desk

WSC - Get your grind on

Throughout the 4 years we spend here at WSC there are few occasions when a class comes together, for seniors its graduation. When everyone gets together under the big yellow tent in the middle of the green in early May most everyone is feeling the same sense of purpose, accomplishment and a job well done.

The matching outfits, pomp and circumstance and diplomas don't hurt either.

Coming in a close second would be this year's Senate Banquet which was held Friday, April 1 at Chez Josef in Agawam. This year's Banquet takes what graduation does for one class and extends that feeling to the campus community.

Walking in past the 6 or so security guards outside I didn't know what to expect. I can't dance and had gone two whole years without embarrassing myself. Why break the streak by attending one now? Once inside I knew why.

The lights were low, the scotch cold and the dancing hot. Praise goes to the Student Government Association for putting on such a successful event. Everyone I spoke to could only say good things about this year's banquet and from what I saw there were no major problems, just the kids of Westfield State College having a good time with friends.

I'm only a junior, but it's easy to see the how banquet can be especially poignant for seniors. Yes, there are other events throughout the year when the seniors come together; Convocation and senior week come to mind. However, Convocation is too early in the year to have much emotional impact and senior week is practically the end. The banquet is just late enough in the year for it to be a reminder that their four years is almost up but not so late make anyone to get choked up about it.

But the banquet isn't just about the seniors. Maybe it was the sauce talking, but for me, seeing a good chunk of the campus under the same roof laughing and dancing, I couldn't help but sense some camaraderie.

I was also pleased to see that members of the administration had attended. President Vicky Carwein was there along with Vice President Dr. Arthur Jackson and others. A strong administration like ours should always be willing to mix it up with the students once in awhile.

If you haven't been, get some friends together and have a good time next year.

-Matthew Bernat
Editor-In-Chief
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

Resigns

Hoagland has been a faculty member for 11 years and is heavily involved with computer technology. He credited himself with setting up the first departmental server for an academic department. Hoagland said in the 1990's it was not unusual for his server to be running while the school's was down.

Professor Ken Haar worked as associate director of computing for one year under Reynolds before joining the faculty in a move he said he was pleased with.

Haar also served as APA president for 7 years. He noted there had been few grievances filed by union members, "maybe one or two." Reynolds joined and, " a lot of grievances were filed," said Haar. "He was very confrontational," Haar said.

Haar did credit Reynolds with overseeing the creation of the school's banner system and the authentication program that all students use when signing on the computers in the labs and in the library.

Haar said he could not think of reason for Reynolds sudden resignation.

"For me resignation is a euphemism for being fired," Hoagland said. "I've never seen an administrator admit they're wrong. If you fire [Reynolds] you have to admit your wrong," Hoagland said.

Rasool has named Chris Hirtle of Information Technology as interim director until a permanent CIO can be found. Hirtle could not be reached for comment before deadline.

Reynolds holds a B.B.A. from LaGrange College a M.S. from National Technological University and an Ed. D. from the Nova Southeastern University that is located in Florida.

Both Haar and Hoagland noted that a number of IT employees had left when Reynolds joined the staff.

Hoagland said, "If he was hired to get rid of a majority of the people in IT he did a good job."

Sigma Tau Delta,
The English Honor Society,
will be meeting on

Wednesday, April 13th, at 7:00 p.m.
in the Bates Lounge.

This meeting is for all new
and current members to discuss
end-of-year activities.

Carwein

and formal.
Her words were clear and sharp her eyes not wavering, her speaking style was determined.

What she definitely was 3,000 miles and 9 months from her old campus, University of Washington in Tacoma.

Does Carwein find herself overwhelmed being across country in an unfamiliar region with approximately 7,000 students depending on her?

"Not at all," is her reply.

Being in unfamiliar places is nothing new for this woman who has seen all seven continents.

"My passion is travel," said Carwein, who spent Christmas of 1999 on a cruise ship just off the coast of Antarctica.

"We had to go during their summer and crossed the Drake Passage, one of the roughest bodies of water in the world," Carwein said. The Drake Passage is where the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean meets.

Compared to seeing one of the world's most wild and desolate places, presenting the "Economic Impact of our Four Colleges on our Region" ought to be relatively easy.

Polite applause follows her as she takes her seat. She pours herself a cup of coffee. She drinks it black.

Carwein comes to Westfield State at a time of growth. The school recently finished construction on a new athletic complex that bears the name of her predecessor. A new dorm facility is also under construction and will be completed for fall semester 2005.

Her challenge is a monetary challenge.

"Westfield State wants level funding," said Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Arthur Jackson, "We've gone down financially. We have a hard time maintaining faculty.

"I have a friend who lives in Springfield but works in Enfield [CT]. Just by going across the border she got a $10,000 raise. People can make more money across the border in CT. The money [Carwein] is raising will hopefully attract more students and faculty," Jackson said.

Jackson was hired 5 years ago by then President Frederick Woodward. As part of the President's cabinet, Jackson reports directly to Carwein, he said.

"Woodward was more of a bricks and mortar guy," said Dr. Kamal Ali. Ali is an assistant dean at WSC and is also heads the school's Urban Education program.

If Woodward is considered brick and mortar then Carwein might be thought of as bars and cents.

With WSC facing a 10.42% decrease in state appropriations from fiscal year 2002 to this year, Carwein is using lobbying skills she picked up in Tacoma where she was lauded for her efforts to keep the state funds coming in.

"To get anything done politically you have to lobby. now," said Bob McDonald Student Trustee. McDonald said the days of students rallying on the statehouse lawn are over.

If you want to lobby, you need connections. "She's [Carwein] doing a lot of lunches with business men, getting to know the politicians in the area," Jackson said, "Once she gets acclimated, you can expect to see her more on campus."

According to an article from the News Tribune based in Washington State, Carwein arrived at the University of Washington Tacoma when it was just 5 years old with 732 students and was operating out of rented offices.

She arrived in Washington in 1995 from the University of Las Vegas where she was Dean of Health Services. Carwein began teaching at UNVL in 1972 and worked her way up into an administration position.

When Carwein started at Tacoma a plan was in place to bring the number of students up to 2,000 and eventually 10,000.

Massachusetts is no Washington State, however. Despite having the highest number of private colleges for its population size, Massachusetts ranks forty-ninth in per capita spending for public institutions of higher education.

"She's been more externally focused on outside donors. That includes corporate donors and people who have a vested interest in the college," Jackson said.

When she's not out crisscrossing the state it is possible to find Carwein on campus.

Tuesday, March 8, Carwein had her monthly luncheon with the members of the Student Government Association's Executive Council along with; Dr. Jackson, Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College relations, Joan Rasool, interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Tim Murphy, acting Director of Athletics, and others.

Carwein showed up to the lunch half an hour late because of a snowstorm,

"I'm sorry, the roads are real slick," said Carwein as she brushed the snow from her clothes. She took a seat at the corner of the table and listened as President of SGA Matt Curren gave a run-down of what SGA has been up to.

After he finished Carwein had a few announcements of her own. During a recent trip to Boston, Carwein met Senators John Kerry and Ted Kennedy.

"I invited [Kerry] to speak at commencement," Carwein said. He can't. He has another engagement said Carwein. "He did say he would come in the fall."

As for commencement, Congressman John Olver will be speaking.

After all the small talk she passed by students eating their lunch in the Dining Commons. She got in to her silver Audi Quattro and drove back to the administrative building where a 2 p.m. meeting awaited.

Carwein's office is as meticulously kept as her car was. It's decorated with objects from her worldly travels as well photos of her family and one large picture of her pinscher Ellssah.

Barry Maloney walked into the office with a salesman who had pictures of chairs for the recently renovated boardroom.

"This has been the furniture from hell," Carwein said, "The table we ordered weighed two tons and the floor will not support it."

Carwein looked over the pictures and whistled softly as the salesman and Maloney looked on.

"This one has funny arms," she said. "This one looks good," she said and pointed to a simple black leather chair. The books were scooped up and Maloney and the salesman walk out.

When asked about her management style, Carwein said, "I'm not a micromanager at all. Very smart, capable people have been hired. We hired them because they knew their business. I'm someone who, my analogy is I don't need to know how every gear and dial fits just as long as the clock works and runs on time."

"I'm not an autocrat in any way shape or form, I may not have the solution but I'm really interested in what people think," Carwein said.

"I love the faculty, students and staff. I don't care where I go; I meet someone who's a graduate of Westfield State. The alums have been so positive. Carwein said, "It reaffirms that I made the right choice to come here."

Voice of the Week

Nick Wojtowicz

Role at WSC: Support Technician- The Mac Guy. He takes care of all the computers on campus.

Years working at WSC: Two years this August

Favorite part of the job: Interacting with everyone on campus.

How he became so knowledgeable with computers: He majored in computer science and math and gained experience through playing with them on his own and experimenting.

Favorite movie: Lord of the Rings

Favorite TV show: Star Trek

Favorite song: Stacey's Mom

Who he looks up to: His Father

What he wanted to be when he was little: A Baseball Player

Compiled by Bridget Gleason

Vegetarians

labeled "comments." She wrote a detailed complaint to Sodexho-Marriott Food Services, the catering services at Westfield State College.

She signed her name as Daisy. Her real name is Darcie Bernier.

Darcie is a sophomore at WSC majoring in mass communications.

"It's not fair that we pay the same amount for a meal plan as everyone else," Darcie said. "They would never serve the same meal to everyone else for lunch and dinner."

Sodexho charges $990 for a 19-meal plan, $974 for a 14-meal plan and $958 for a 10-meal plan. Darcie has the 19-meal plan, although she admits she doesn't even use half of them.

A response to Darcie's complaint was posted the next day on a bulletin board in the dining commons.

"I am sorry, but you need to talk to your Food Committee as they are the ones who set this menu," the response said.

Members of the Food Service Committee are concerned with vegetarian dining on campus.

"The vegetarians are pissed," said Pete Norwood, a former member of the Food Service Committee.

Other vegetarians at WSC are also extremely upset by this.

"Last night at dinner I ate a potato that tasted like chicken," said Meaghan Chevalier, a sophomore at WSC. "I haven't been a vegetarian long enough to forget what chicken tastes like."

> **"The vegetarians are pissed."**
>
> **-Pete Norwood Former Food Service Committee member**

On Tuesday, Mar. 29, the Food Service Committee extended a special invitation to the campus vegetarians to their weekly meeting concerning the dining commons. These meetings are always open to the entire student body every Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. in the dining commons.

The meeting provided an opportunity for those students to communicate directly with chefs – to voice their concerns, give suggestions and even share recipes.

The Food Service Committee and Sodexho's staff hope to enhance the vegetarian options, increasing both variety and nutrition.

Sodexho also offers other vegetarian choices at its other campus establishments, but most vegetarians aren't happy with the limited selection.

Veggie subs are available at Subway, and veggie burgers are also available at Subway, the Grill in Wilson Hall and the Corner Café. Yet none of these alternative meal providers do not accommodate vegetarians by cooking on different pans and burners.

Voices Overheard

What was your favorite April Fool's trick?

Colin Drury
Class of 2005
Physical Education

"My buddies moved my office around. There was sh*t everywhere."

"Tuck"
Class of 2006
Mass Communications

"We gave a friend a flashback to his old roommate with some fat chick porn."

Amanda Grant
Class of 2007
History
Secondary Ed.

"My friend's dad called & said Micheal Jackson shot & killed 2 people in court. We freaked out."

Billy Jackson
Class of 2006
Math
Brian Henderson
Class of 2006
Elementary Ed.

"My car was missing from South Lot. I searched for two hours. My roommate took it."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield

115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)

Phone Number: 568-0429

Sundays:
9:30a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO TRIED TO ATTEND THE TATTOO CONTEST...

CAB is sorry they had to cancel!

Due to unforseen complications, we were forced to cancel but we're planning to do this in the fall! So watch for advertising!

We'd love to see you there!

News is greeted with stunned silence, then applause

BY LETTA TAYLER
NEWSDAY

VATICAN CITY – First, stunned silence. Then, not tears, but applause.

For many of the 100,000 faithful amassed in St. Peter's Square Saturday night, the homage reflected relief that the pope's physical suffering had ended, even amid their grief over his death.

"I'm heart-broken. But there is glory in his death," said Jaime Serrada, 24, a university student who flew in from his native Madrid, Spain, to pay his respects just hours before the pontiff died. "He has left his pain behind him. He is with God, in the best place that he could be."

Though the world had braced for two days for John Paul's passage, the shock was palpable after signals began to appear: a light flashed on in the pontiff's third-floor study overlooking the cobblestone square, and then Vatican Undersecretary of State Archbishop Leonardo Sandri arrived to address the masses.

"Dear brothers and sisters, at 9:37 this evening, our dearest Pope John Paul II returned to his maker," Sandri announced solemnly. "We all feel like orphans this evening."

Many mourners fell to their knees and began to pray, feverishly but so silently that the loudest sound was water splashing from stone fountains dotting the vast piazza. Then slowly, the applause began to build.

And then tears did come. But not in floods. They trickled slowly down cheeks: those of punks and priests, Poles and Italians and Filipinos, scruffy backpackers and young women in teetering heels and designer jeans.

"I can't cry yet. It doesn't seem real," said Anna Aufiero, a young Italian woman who drove about three hours from the southern town of Sarno to pay respects to the Roman Catholic leader she said she loved "like a grandfather."

Many in the square simply held onto friends and loved ones and swayed slowly back and forth.

In a spectacle that likely would have gratified the media-savvy pope, four giant video screens in the square captured the proceedings, including mourners holding their cell phones aloft so loved ones elsewhere could hear the toll of the giant bells, the chant of Hail Marys and the soft singing of "Ave Maria."

Parents put children on their shoulders to watch. "I want her to remember this moment in history," Bernadette Porat of Amherst, N.H., said of her daughter, 10-year-old Sarah. "I want her to remember that in this time of war and trouble in the world, that there lived a man who was such a humanist and a voice for peace."

Jews, Protestants and agnostics joined Catholics in saluting a pope whose conservative views on abortion, contraception and homosexuality often clashed with more liberal church currents.

"We're drawn here by a force we don't really understand," said Phillip Williams, an Anglican grade-school headmaster from England. "This pope has been a tremendously significant figure for many of us, regardless of our beliefs."

As rumors of John Paul's death began rippling through the crowds and on the Internet, scores of red-robed cardinals quietly streamed toward the Vatican.

All sports events for the weekend were canceled, and flags were lowered to half-staff.

"I will always keep your voice in my heart," said Italian President Carlo Azelgio Ciampi in announcing three days of national mourning.

As they launched a midnight vigil, mourners began decorating street corners with offerings, including paper hearts shaped into the word "amore" (love) and fresh spring daffodils formed into a cross.

Despite the initial applause, not every pilgrim was ready to relinquish the pope who had led the Roman Catholic world for more than a quarter-century.

"Maybe it was his time," said Maria Gaetani, 23, fighting back tears. "But I didn't want to see him go."

Not the sharpest shears on the "Barbershop" block

BY JENNIFER FREY
THE WASHINGTON POST

It appears, alas, that we women have been missing out: If Queen Latifah's new flick "Beauty Shop" gets it right, the guys in the barbershops not only get out cheaper, they also get better entertainment.

"Beauty Shop," a spinoff from the popular "Barbershop" films starring Ice Cube, is mildly amusing and occasionally laugh-out-loud funny, with much of its humor playing off foolish white folks and gay stereotypes. And booty jokes, of course - the main gag in the film's trailer centers on how pleased Latifah is with her ample behind.

What's thin is the social commentary tucked into the banter of the "Barbershop" franchise, which got much of its fun - and some controversy - out of trash-talking everyone from Michael Jackson to Kobe Bryant to Rosa Parks.

Reprising the role she played in "Barbershop 2," Queen Latifah is stylist Gina Norris, who has left Ice Cube's shop in Chicago to move to Atlanta so that her gifted daughter can enroll in a top-notch music school. When the film opens, she's working in a swanky downtown salon owned by Jorge Christophe - that is, Kevin Bacon with a quasi-Euro accent, long hair with highlights and a tendency to start sentences with "girl-friend."

Jorge is, shall we say, a less than stellar boss, what with his demeaning comments, excessive demands and ceaseless fixation on polishing his own reputation. So Latifah packs up and scrapes together the money to buy an aging storefront in a dodgy part of town where she plans to run her own shop.

That's pretty much the plot. Jorge reappears as the bad guy trying to sabotage Gina's success and there's some minimal romance between Gina and the electrician upstairs (Djimon Hounsou), but this is a story dependent upon the laughs generated by those frank-as-all-get-out conversations to be had inside the beauty shop.

Gina's staff includes Alfre Woodard as Miss Josephine (who is prone to quoting Maya Angelou), Golden Brooks as smart-mouthed Chanel and Sherri Shepherd as the pregnant Ida. Keshia Knight Pulliam (remember Rudy from "The Cosby Show"?) plays Gina's irresponsible sister, who hasn't met a bad boy she doesn't like.

A lot of the humor plays off the white characters, particularly Lynn, the shampoo girl who defected from Jorge's joint along with Gina. Played by Alicia Silverstone, Lynn is a country girl with a thick accent and a whole lot of girl-next-door naivete. She tries way too hard to fit in - she gets a new hairstyle, changes the way she dresses and lands a black boyfriend - and nothing gets a bigger laugh than the sight of her out with the other women at a club, trying valiantly to shake her (minimal) booty on the dance floor.

Lynn's boyfriend, James (Bryce Wilson), the only man who works for Gina, is an ex-con who drinks tea with his pinkie up. The joke here is that Silverstone is the only one who doesn't automatically know that the guy is just so obviously gay.

Latifah is, well, Latifah playing herself - funny, brash, smart, likable and not willing to take any garbage from anyone. Andie MacDowell is amusing as a social X-ray with a cheating husband; she stops patronizing Jorge's shop because she just can't live without Latifah's talents, and ends up discovering the pleasures of greens and monkey bread. And Mena Suvari fills out the cast as another one of Gina's converts, a shallow, pampered prima donna who shows up at the shop one day with impossibly large - and expensive - implants, prompting Ida to announce: "Girl, you could have bought yourself a Saturn with that!"

Berger pleads guilty to taking classified paper

BY JOHN F. HARRIS &
ALLAN LENGEL
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON - Samuel "Sandy" Berger, a former White House national security adviser, on Friday pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and acknowledged intentionally removing and destroying copies of a classified document about the Clinton administration's record on terrorism.

Berger, one of former president Bill Clinton's most influential advisers and one of the Democratic Party's leading foreign policy advisers, made the plea before U.S. Magistrate Deborah Robinson Friday afternoon as part of a deal with federal authorities.

Under terms negotiated by Berger's attorneys and the Justice Department, he agreed to pay a $10,000 fine and accept a three-year suspension of his national security clearance.

Berger's plea agreement was first described Thursday by his advisers.

The deal's terms make clear that Berger spoke falsely last summer in public claims that in 2003 he twice inadvertently walked off with copies of a classified document during visits to the National Archives, then later lost them.

He had described the episode as "an honest mistake." On Thursday, a Berger associate who declined to be identified by name but was speaking with Berger's permission said: "He recognizes what he did was wrong. ... It was not inadvertent."

Lanny Breuer, Berger's attorney, said in a statement Thursday: "Mr. Berger has cooperated fully with the Department of Justice and is pleased that a resolution appears very near. He accepts complete responsibility for his actions, and regrets the mistakes he made during his review of documents at the National Archives."

The terms of Berger's agreement required him to acknowledge to the Justice Department the circumstances of the episode. Rather than misplacing or unintentionally throwing away three of the five copies he took from the archives, as the former national security adviser earlier maintained, he shredded them with a pair of scissors late one evening at the downtown offices of his international consulting business.

The document, written by former National Security Council terrorism expert Richard Clarke, was an "after-action review" prepared in early 2000 detailing the administration's actions to thwart terrorist attacks during the millennium celebration. It contained considerable discussion about the administration's awareness of the rising threat of attacks on U.S. soil.

Archives officials have said previously that Berger had copies only, and that no original documents were lost. It remains unclear whether Berger knew that, or why he destroyed three versions of a document but left two other versions intact. Officials have said the five versions were largely similar, but contained slight variations as the after-action report moved around different agencies of the executive branch.

"Mr. Berger has cooperated fully with the Department of Justice and is pleased that a resolution appears way near. He accepts complete responsibility for his actions, and regrets the mistakes he made during his review of the documents at the National Archives."

-Lanny Breuer

National Archives officials almost immediately suspected that Berger had removed materials after his Oct. 2, 2003, visit. They called Bruce Lindsey, a former White House lawyer and Clinton's liaison to the archives to complain. Lindsey, sources said, called Berger, who soon acknowledged to archives officials that he had removed documents - by accident, he told them - and returned notes that he made, as well as the two documents he had not destroyed.

A criminal investigation, which eventually brought witnesses before a grand jury, was soon underway. The probe came to light last July, prompting Berger's resignation as a senior foreign policy adviser to 2004 Democratic nominee John Kerry.

Berger's archives visit occurred as he was reviewing materials as a designated representative of the Clinton administration to the national commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The question of what Clinton knew and did about the emerging al-Qaida threat before leaving office in January 2001 was acutely sensitive, as suggested by Berger's determination to spend hours poring over the Clarke report before his testimony.

The Berger associate authorized to speak with reporters described the chronology the former national security chief gave to the Justice Department in his negotiations with the Justice Department. On Sept. 2, 2003, the associate said, Berger put a copy of the Clarke report in his suit jacket. He did not put it in his socks or underwear, as was alleged by some Republicans last summer. On Oct. 2, 2003, he again spent hours at the archives and took four more versions of the document. Back in his office, he studied them in detail, realized they were largely identical, and took the scissors to three of the copies, the associate said.

Berger friends regarded the agreement as fair, given the circumstances, and Breuer's statement praised the "professionalism" of the lawyers he worked with at the Justice Department.

A roadblock, not a barrier for migrants

BY DAVID KELLY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LA MORITA, Mexico – Sergio Cruz almost made it. He had walked five days through the desert, was robbed at gunpoint, abandoned by his guide and now was within 20 yards of the border.

That's when he saw the line of trucks and sport utility vehicles flying American flags just over the barbed-wire fence separating Mexico from the United States. Frustrated, he and nine other travelers lay quietly in a ditch along the railroad tracks hoping the men would go away. Early Sunday, Enrique Enriquez stumbled across the migrants and broke the news.

"Did anyone tell you about the Minutemen?" Enriquez, a member of Grupo Beta, Mexico's agency dedicated to protecting the health of migrants, asked the ragged group. "They are hunting for guys just like you. You couldn't get across now if you were sitting on George Bush's lap. ... You cannot cross here – wait a month or choose another place."

Enriquez had been patrolling La Morita, a desolate border region, all morning. His mission was to intercept people heading north and warn them about the Minuteman Project, an effort by hundreds of American volunteers to track and report illegal immigrants coming into southeastern Arizona.

The migrants frowned.

"I would like to tell those people that we are not criminals," said the 22-year-old Cruz. "We came to pick crops. Our records are clean. We are not selling drugs, we only want to work. Who will pick the crops if we don't?"

Although only about 200 activists have shown up, their efforts have already had a dramatic, if perhaps short-term effect.

This vast desert border just west of Douglas, Ariz., is the busiest illegal crossing point in the nation. Enriquez said more than 400 people a day walk these harsh trails. But news of the Minutemen's arrival, combined with media hype in Mexico, has cut the traffic to a few dozen a day.

Some smugglers have refused to take clients to the border area until the activists leave. Others are directing them elsewhere, as far east as El Paso, Texas. An air of fear and indignation hangs over this side of the border, where misinformation is rife.

Ruben Valenzuela, a Mexican state policeman at a checkpoint near Agua Prieta, across from Douglas, said his unit had been dispatched to protect migrants.

"We came because they are shooting our people over there," he said. "They don't have the right to kill immigrants. People here are really angry about this."

Valenzuela and his comrades seemed surprised to hear that the Minutemen, who began arriving Friday, were under strict orders not to touch any illegal immigrant, only to report them to the Border Patrol.

"Well, they will only stop the immigration for a short time and then it will start again," he said.

Not far away, Lupita Paz said she didn't send her children, American citizens, to school in Douglas on Friday. "A bunch of us women didn't send their kids because we were afraid of the Minutemen," she said.

Agua Prieta Mayor David Figueroa called the activists "vigilantes" and their effort "an expression of racism." He said that Grupo Beta had added more agents to try to persuade people not to cross and show that the Mexican police presence has been beefed up to deter drug dealers from sneaking into the United States.

The net effect has been a precipitous drop in illegal traffic, something the Minuteman campaign would likely claim credit for. But Figueroa said Mexico didn't have the money to sustain such efforts and that they would end when the volunteers left at the end of the month.

"I understand the frustration of the American people but this is not the way to handle it," he said.

While the activists' presence along the border has deterred some, it has done little to stop the desire to go north. Interviews with migrants Sunday showed they planned to go around the Minutemen or wait until they left. None would stay in Mexico.

"We heard about these people but didn't see them until last night," said Maniuel Soto, 21, as he sat along railroad tracks in Mexico. "We didn't know what we should do so, we were going to wait until they left."

The Minutemen, stationed at quarter-mile intervals, were just over a small rise where they couldn't see the migrants.

Santiago Ramirez, 36, was angry with his government.

"Tell (Mexican President) Vicente Fox to pay us better wages so we don't have to cross here," he said.

Enriquez of Grupo Beta calmed the men.

"I will tell you the truth," he said. "The people over there are very angry with you. I cannot say what they will do if they catch you. They may beat you up or hurt you. You see the solution, you are not dumb, so don't waste your time crossing, it's not worth it."

They agreed to abandon their plans for the moment and jumped in back of Grupo Beta's orange pickup truck.

Sergio Cruz stared out the window.

"My dream is to some day have my own business but I must save my money for that," he said. "I would like to have a wife and children and a stable job but I don't know if that is possible in Mexico. I can't get any money here. I see this dream as not happening."

The group was taken to Agua Prieta, given soup and offered a reduced-price bus ticket home. There were no takers. Everyone planned to cross.

"Maybe we will go through Juarez this time," said Justino Escobar. "But I am not giving up. I will try again in a different direction; there are still many places to cross."

Authorities believe as many as 20 teenagers were involved in Red Lake shooting spree

BY DANA HEDPPETH &
DAN EGGEN
THE WASHINGTON POST

RED LAKE, Minn. - As many as 20 teen-agers may have known ahead of time about plans for the shooting spree that resulted in the deaths of 10 people on the Indian reservation here March 21, tribal and federal officials said Friday.

Sgt. Dwayne Dow of the tribal police told a group of shocked parents, teachers and staff at a three-hour school board meeting that authorities believe as many as 20 students were involved.

One law enforcement official said the FBI believes that as many as four students - including gunman Jeff Weise and Louis Jourdain, a classmate arrested Sunday - were directly involved in planning an attack on Red Lake High School, while well over a dozen others may have heard about the plot.

"There may have been as many as four of these kids who were active participants in the plot," said the official, who declined to be identified discussing an ongoing investigation. "The question is, how many other kids had some knowledge of this or had heard about it somehow? We think there were quite a few."

FBI agents seized 30 to 40 computers from the high school computer laboratory today in order to perform forensic analysis on the machines, FBI and school officials said. Investigators hope to learn more from the school computers, since much of the alleged discussion and planning among Weise and his friends occurred through e-mails and instant messages, the law enforcement official said.

Those developments capped a week in which daily funerals or wakes kept many members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa in a state of stunned disbelief. As the week passed in this isolated community, the FBI's continuing investigation was compounding the residents' ingrained distrust of outside authorities.

"It still feels like it's a bad dream," Donald May, a member of the tribal council, said in midweek. "We're in shock."

The last of the 10 fatalities was to be buried Saturday. "I went to a lot of these funerals these past few days, and I'm just numb," said Allen Pemberton, another tribal council member.

"It used to be when you saw someone who's a non-Indian coming on the reservation, there's only one reason - he's either an FBI agent or a Mormon," said Mike Fairbanks, a 40-year law enforcement veteran and member of Red Lake.

Some of the distrust was cropping up between tribal members.

"I've been getting strange looks," said Cartera Hart, 16, as she left a grocery store on the reservation. Hart, who was dressed in black and wore a hoop through her lip, said she hangs out in a group of about a dozen students who were friends with Weise and Jourdain, who is the tribal chairman's son. "There's going to be more and more people tormenting us and thinking we're involved," she said.

To cope with the onslaught of attention, and with the shootings, some tribal members simply withdrew to their homes. As the weather turned warm and sunny on Thursday, baseball courts and parks were empty. A few younger children rode bikes around in their yards, close to their houses.

"I stay in roy house, and I don't want my kids to go outside," said Barbara Bedeau, 42, who said she has struggled to explain the shooting spree to her 8-year-old daughter. "I want them to stay close, near me. It's made us all scared."

At two counseling centers set up on the reservation, a handful of the counselors who had been brought in from around the area sat one afternoon, sipping the donated sodas and waiting for someone to counsel. Some parents said that their teen-agers had gone for counseling the first few days after the shooting, but that they would like to see the roughly 30 counselors come to their houses because they are nervous and afraid.

Many tribal members said they felt more comfortable talking about their grief in private, with friends and family. Some people said they were on edge as FBI agents shoved up at people's houses, and teen-agers were being taken to the detention center for hours of questioning.

"It's hard to see your kids go through this," said the father of two teen-agers at the Red Lake high school, who asked that his name not be used because he is afraid that if other students were involved, they would go after his children. "They don't listen to as much music anymore. They don't seem to like to watch as much TV. They're not on the Internet as much."

At the high school grounds, a few miles from his house, police cars and yellow tape blocked the entrance. Teddy bears, flowers, candles and signs offering condolences hung along a metal fence in the schoolyard. Inside the school, the sounds of drills could be heard as workers repaired the damage.

School officials said they plan to reopen the nearby elementary school April 11, but were unsure when the middle and high schools would reopen. Some students say they are ready to go back and move on, while others are trying to transfer to other school districts.

"I don't want to go back," said Amanda Lussier, 16, whose boyfriend, Steven Cobenais, was wounded in the shooting. Cobenais, 15, was listed in critical condition at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo, N.D.

"It will be too hard, knowing all that happened there," Lussier said.

Tribal chairman Floyd "Buck" Jourdain Jr. appeared at Friday's school board meeting and defended his son. "I sincerely feel my son is a victim, just like everybody else's," Jourdain said. "He's equally traumatized as anybody. He's been more traumatized, because he was a friend of Jeff Wiese's. The only thing he's being guilty of is being a friend."

Will Smith, 'Lost and Found'

BY DAN LEROY
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Album scale: one star (poor) to four (excellent).
Will Smith
"Lost and Found" (Interscope)
3 stars.

You can eventually push even Mr. Nice Guy too far, and the famously mild Fresh Prince of Bel-Air has apparently had enough. "I Wish I Made That/Swagga," off Will Smith's fourth solo album, finally takes aim at the critics who have sneered that he's "too white." "Oh, wait, maybe I'll jack a truck/fulla cigarettes and guns and stuff ... then will I be black enough?" he demands. Hip-hop has been long overdue for such a Cosby moment, and good for Smith – who could have simply abandoned music for movies by now – for providing it.

The problem with the rest of "Lost and Found," Smith's first album for Interscope and an attempt to present a harder-edged Big Willie, is that it deliberately neglects his two strengths: familiar, recycled pop hooks, and feel-good rhymes. He needed a Kanye West or Just Blaze to produce this comeback but got Timbaland instead; the harsh, sample-free boom-bap is ill-suited to Smith's breezy style, and his stabs at topicality (an attack on born-again Christians; the belated 9/11 song "Tell Me Why") sound forced. "Sometimes y'all mistake nice for soft," Smith warns Eminem and other haters on "Mr. Nice Guy." Ironically, on "Lost and Found," Smith often makes the same mistake.

-File Photo
Singer/Actor Will Smith.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

As faculty participants in the Westfield State College V-Day campaign reading of The Vagina Monologues in 2004 and 2005, we write in response to Jeff Hodder's negative review of this year's performance in the March 28 issue of The Voice. Our objections are not based on the fact that Mr. Hodder chose to write a negative review, but rather that he resorted to mean-spirited attack rather than constructive criticism and that he failed to research the guidelines surrounding college benefit performances of Eve Ensler's play. Personal attack is an abuse of public speech, and not bothering to investigate one's topic is shoddy journalism.

A negative review—when offered as constructive criticism—can be a useful source of feedback to those involved in a performance. Mr. Hodder missed a chance to engage in constructive dialogue, choosing instead a hurtful, mean-spirited attack. Unfortunately, a number of Voice columnists this year have chosen rant and attack over respectful disagreement, thoughtful analysis, and serious engagement with issues affecting students at WSC. As a result, many students, staff, and faculty have become fed up with the paper and choose not to read it. Alienating, even attacking, one's audience is not a wise journalistic strategy.

Mr. Hodder's negative response to the performance focused largely on the fact that cast members emphasized humor in the material and read from the script rather than "performing" the monologues. While he claims these to be flaws, both are, in fact, part of the guidelines and requirements Eve Ensler and the V-Day organization have established for colleges holding benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues. To quote directly from the V-Day organizer's kit, "the overall spirit of the play should be one of celebration and humor. The comedy in The Vagina Monologues is what gives the piece its unique ability to enlighten the audience without preaching to them." Humor is often used as a means to demystify entrenched views and over-defined concepts, making it an essential component of this play. We find it ironic that feminists are accused of not having a sense of humor, but when we engage that sense of humor, we aren't being serious enough.

On the topic of presenting the play as a reading rather than a theatrical performance, Eve Ensler writes, "These pieces are not meant to be dramatic interpretations: The monologues are anecdotal and rely on good old-fashioned storytelling to come across well; they are real and very human so the performers should embrace that concept and keep the 'Acting' to a minimum!" In order to emphasize that the monologues are readings of other women's stories, cast members are required to read from the script during the performance. As participants in the international V-Day campaign, we are an inclusive campus grassroots movement that is academic, community- and student-centered. No one interested in participating is turned away. The majority of the cast had never before been on stage but participated in support of the purpose of the V-Day campaign: raising money and awareness of issues surrounding violence against women, including rape and genocide. The participants worked hard preparing for the reading, and they deserve credit for engaging with difficult material. Many people would not have the courage to read these monologues.

We welcome Mr. Hodder's ideas and energy towards the goals of reducing violence against women. If he comes up with any ideas, he can seek out Professor Stassinos, who will be in her office wearing her hairy pink fluorescent Doris Day slippers, which for her are a reminder of the only time she has ever been on stage. much less standing side by side with other students and faculty in an experience that has deepened our understanding of others in need.

- Dr. Beth Ann Rothermel
English
- Dr. Susan Leggett
Communication
- Dr. Elizabeth Stassinos
- Dr. Vanessa Holford Diana
English, Women's Studies
Program Coordinator

To the Editor:

I am writing in regard to Jeff Hodder's recent review of *The Vagina Monologues*. I don't believe Jeff deliberately intended to hurt people with his remarks. I believe that Jeff is simply uninformed as to the criteria for theatrical reviews and the manner in which criticism should be expressed.

The point of responsible and professional theatrical criticism is to assess the intentions of a playwright and a director, whether or not those intentions were fulfilled, and whether or not the production was a worthwhile experience for a viewing audience. Reviews must, however, avoid personal attacks upon the actors, and focus soley upon the actors' interpretations of their characters and the execution of their artistic choices. It is constructive and important for the reviewer to mention why a choice - such as Jeff's reaction to the use of a Southern accent, for instance - did not work particularly well, rather than to simply characterize it in disparaging terms. While a reviewer can disagree with a director's choices and a performer's interpretation of a role - as Jeff did in his article, and as some audience members perhaps did as well - it is customary for the reviewer to couch such disagreements in constructive and humane terms, and to provide his/her reasons for th epositive or negative assessment.

Jeff spoke of the moving experience he had while viewing a performance of theplay at another venue, and how he came to this reading with expectations of a similar experience. He found the reading at WSC to be wanting and expressed his disappointment and his evaluation of some of the performers. Just as one cannot apply the standards of professional theatre to a community theatre production, neither can one apply the standards of a fully rehearsed performane to a reading done by actors with little or no actor training or experience and with little rehearsal time.

It is also essential to remember that the readers in this production - like all actors, professional or not - posess tremendous courage to stand before an audience with nothing more than themselves and the playwright's words. Actors are exceedingly vulnerable during and after a performance; they expose themselves to criticism in ways that most people never would. Harsh remarks at such times can cut very deeply.

I urge Jeff, who himself is an actor, to remind himself of this condition, to remember the criteria for theatrical criticism, to recognize the type of performance he is viewing, and to find more constructive ways to express his reactions.

-Jack Shea
Theater Arts Program
Department of English

Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

Jacilyn Berriman	Heather De Wolf	Deborah Humphries	Timothy MacDonald	Alana Signor
Christyn Carey	Li Drapeau	Salim Ibrahim	Kristina Martinelli	Jillian Silver
Megan Carmichael	Mohammad Tariq Faridi	Krista Jendza	Meghan McCarthy	Matthew Stone
Jessica Castro	Ashley Farrell	Kristen Johnson	Lauren McDermott	Julie Swartwout
Beth Chapdelaine	Amy Gagnon	Nya Johnson	Robert McDonald	Andrew Tighe
Sara Coons	Gina Goralczyk	Andrea Joseph	Kristine Miele	David Trueira
Brian Cooper	Jennifer Gould	Jessica Kaeding	Kori Nicholson	Ashley Zolenski
Caitlin Costello	Casey Greggo	Gary Kennett	Edward Paris	
Jennifer Curran	Daniel Harren	Elsa Lage	Emily Ransom	
Matthew Curren	Jessica Hart	Thomas Lore	Stephanie Sawyer	
Stephanie Da Costa	Rebecca Hildreth	KatieAnn Loth	Laura Scott	

Congratulations to all of the recipients of this year's Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities Award. Students were selected for inclusion by members of the college community on the basis of academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Traitors in our midst

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

It is a strange day when a United States congressman begins to pattern his behavior after Islamic extremists, especially when that congressman is the majority leader in the house. And when this behavior is affected in order to destroy America, to betray it to the ancestral enemies that it first flew from in those desperate days of colonial rebellion, then I call that person a traitor.

The ancestral enemy I speak of is not radical Islam, which, in the larger scale, has only dealt America a glancing blow that we've made out as a gaping wound. Like a young child with a bee sting (a terribly painful but not catastrophic injury), America runs in pain and fear from the bee, realizing not the busy street with its speeding cars ahead.

The ancestral enemy I speak of is not gay people, with their terrifying theoretical monogamy and theatrical lisps. Nor is this enemy the withdrawal of life support from the brain dead, a concept that, as governor, George Bush Jr. was comfortable with, as long as the people being starved were too poor to pay.

The enemy I speak of is despotism fueled by ideological reactionaries, Christian fundamentalists, and greedy tyrants. The brutal oppressors of our forefathers, they are the enemy. Each generation their dark urges reincarnate in some would-be petty dictator.

This accusation of traitorous intent is not a light one, and so I will qualify my statements. Unchecked power in a single branch of the government has been the bane of enlightened, free humanity for ages beyond memory. When a single mind's fancy rules what we can or cannot do (whether that mind is a king or a group of single-minded groupthinkers), we are at the mercy of whim. Our government is designed so that three branches of government are equally powerful, and each provides over a sovereign section of our society. Congress does not decide court cases; it passes legislation.

And so, when majority leader Tom Delay saw fit to threaten the judges involved in the Schiavo case, saying "This loss happened because our legal system did not protect the people who need protection most, and that will change... The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior," he crossed the line. What justice may we have in this country if judges must interpret the law based on who is in office, and not the mandates of their good sense? Tom has done more damage with his threats than we realize.

And then there is Republican Senator John Comyn who said, "there may be some connection between the perception in some quarters on some occasions where judges are making political decisions yet are unaccountable to the public, that it builds up and builds up and builds up to the point where some people ... engage in violence." He went on to insist such violence was unacceptable, but the implied message of "maybe they brought it on themselves, dirty activist judges" is shocking and disgusting.

Michael Schiavo, George Greer, and many others are faced with the danger of being murdered by a fanatic for their beliefs and actions, which, like it or not, were legal. They have received death threats, and the hospice which cared for Schiavo has received bomb threats. One cannot help but wonder over the absence of the ever-popular talk of terrorism now? Perhaps only "brown people" can be terrorists in our brave new world.

And this brings us to our original point. The ideology without idealism that defines the neo-conservative policy is not only attempting to tear down the walls that separate our governmental branches, ensuring our freedom, but they are slowly leaning toward a state in which it is acceptable for congress to issue de facto fatwas. The negligence of these congressmen in their words and actions is shameful.

Will Greer have to be guarded for the rest of his life? Will Michael Schiavo have to change his name and go into hiding to avoid the well-armed adherents of fuzzy logic and selective Bible quotation? Perhaps yes, perhaps no. But the day when a politician can ring a dinner bell and say "get 'im boys" with the expectation that some psychotic, well-meaning fanatic will do their dirty work for them has drawn one day closer.

Yet another reason to hate the campus bookstore

"THE LEFT HANDED ELEPHANT"
BY DAVE PAGEAU
VOICE COLUMNIST

While I usually write about issues that I hear about first hand, and usually stray from taking ideas from those who suggest them (although I truly do appreciate them), this column comes to you courtesy of my fellow conservative friend Jeff Loja. While chatting one afternoon, Jeff gave me a suggestion for a column about the campus bookstore. At first I thought it might be about prices, maybe an irate clerk, but when Jeff told me it was about the severe political bias of commercial books on sale in the front of the store, I was surprised. Apparently our bookstore has a problem publishing books that show a non-liberal perspective. While being a bit apprehensive, I finally mustered up the energy and patience to go and check for myself and I can say that I was absolutely appalled by the sheer number of liberally motivated books upon the shelves.

I walked in and saw Jon Stewart's *Naked Pictures of Famous People*, Al Franken's *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them*, a slew of Michael Moore's titles and even Gene Stone's *The Bush Survival Bible*. This is only scratching the surface! Organizations even have a stranglehold around the bookstores scrawny little neck. Moveon.org which is a liberal organization run by VP and re-election loser Al Gore among many other notable liberals had a book for sale called *50 Ways to Love Your Country*. Somehow I don't think one of those 50 ways is by fighting for your country or giving out tax breaks to those who deserve them.

While I know it is hard for many of those who consider themselves progressive to not take offense to what I am about to say, hear me out. How about this idea, instead of supplying no politically charged books, why doesn't the bookstore have somewhat even amount of each political persuasion. Just like our faculty, liberal ideas are the majority and for a political persuasion that bases everything they believe in on equality and tolerance, how come there is no equality in our literature or a tolerance for differing opinions? How come Michael Adam's *The Ivory Tower of Babel* isn't available? This is an insightful book that uncovers the unsightly underbelly of the world of liberal college professors and the death grip they have upon higher education. I think this book would be great on-campus reading! Why isn't Ann Coulter's *How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must)* not available? Is it the in-your-face title? Well then I think that you should get rid of Al Franken's book, that's a bit much, but not worse than his book *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot*. Oh and Michael Moore's too, he uses the word 'stupid' in his title. But I digress. Regardless of the title, the book is amazing because the title holds so true and employing what Coulter says actually works! Keep in mind that these are just a few suggestions, campus bookstore, if that is your real name.

As I stated before, there is no excuse for showing only one side of American politics. I'd feel much better about the books at this school if I could see Al Franken and Ann Coulter side by side in a bookstore. Not only would they make the most awkward couple ever (her being gorgeous for being in her mid-forties, and him being a fifty-something not so great looking guy), they would assure me that at least the materials are present for a student to broaden their political horizons without a foreed slant toward either political spectrum. The bookstore is here to supply the campus with good quality, fairly priced books, and it has become painfully apparent that they suck at both of their basic responsibilities. Hence, I leave you with this... Thank God for Half.com

Student dares WSC to be diverse

BY RYAN WARD
VOICE COLUMNIST

On Thursday, March 10, Westfield State hosted a conference for the Gay Straight Alliances of high schools from area cities. I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to take part in the conference which was attended by around 80 students from Belchertown, Easthampton, Agawam, and Central High in Springfield.

Our own Gay Straight Alliance led a discussion of tolerance in high school and of overall experiences as GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) students and straight allies. For lack of better means to articulate my reaction, the discussion blew my mind. I have never seen a group of teenagers so open with each other and so accepting of their peers.

The room was free of enemies and allowed for a rich discussion of the hatred, intolerance, and ignorance we encounter daily. You would have been hard-pressed to find a student in the crowd who hadn't been called "faggot" or "dyke". As one student put it, "I've been called everything in the book!"

The conference was a safe-zone. For most of us it was a breath of fresh air, a stark contrast to the outside world in which our President seeks to amend discrimination into the Constitution and the threat of hate crimes is ever-present.

Without Professor Maddy Cahill's Intro to Gay and Lesbian Studies class, I wouldn't have known the GSA High School Conference even existed. This is the only class offered by Westfield State that covers the history, literature, culture, and politics of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. It is the only class of its kind and it did not come without a fight.

The issues discussed in the Gay and Lesbian Studies course are some of the most important issues currently being discussed nationally. America is at a crossroads. It can go in the direction of discrimination, intolerance, and hate, or it can travel the road of acceptance and inclusion. Westfield State's mission statement declares that its "primary mission is to assist students to develop intellectually and to use their knowledge and skills to improve the social and economic conditions in their communities. The college seeks to instill among members of its community a sense of social responsibility and citizenship."

Although I applaud the efforts of Professor Cahill, the WSC GSA, and Kathi Bradford of ResLife for their work to celebrate diversity, I must ask for more. I challenge Westfield State to meet its mission and offer more courses in the area of Gay and Lesbian Studies. For the 80 students who told of the taunting, the threats, the hate they face for simply being themselves, and for the thousands of students like them around the nation, I demand more comprehensive diversity courses.

Hate is not an inherent trait, it must be taught. We can fight hatred by teaching acceptance, by celebrating diversity and never fearing it. Silence will not put an end to intolerance, it will only allow hatred to flourish. Westfield State must offer the weapons needed to fight against hatred, and we as students must celebrate our diversity and wholeheartedly condemn intolerance.

Let's talk about cops

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

One would almost be inclined to think that if they were to smoke some pot outside, harming no one but his or herself and whomever may be smoking with that individual, they should be left alone (of course, this is if one were to disregard state and federal legislation). Now of course, we all know that cops are not responsible for the legislature that affects us in our daily lives. However, I have a problem with cops disregarding the drunken students that run around campus in favor of chasing down a couple of stoners.

I respect these officers of the law for the simple fact that they are the ones who keep me from getting shot in my sleep (although hardly, they'd probably let me get shot and investigate later). I was brought up in a family where cops were not looked at as saviors or protectors, but rather "oinkers" or "pigs."

Now, i remember about a week ago, I wanted to go out and smoke a blunt, but I noticed that cops were chasing me like rabid dogs around campus, trying to catch me or something. I also enjoy the fact that they seem to think I am ignorant to what they are doing. For instance, if you drive up behind me, slow down, then blow by and head to the church parking lot, I know what you're doing! What do you take me for? Check this out, this is my favorite part. After the cop blew by and headed to the church parking lot, he turned his lights off and sat there! Come on!

Luckily, I have a strong sense of the law and what I can and cannot do without implicating myself. So when you see me walk by really late at night, yes, I probably am going to smoke some weed. Writing a column on your weed smoking patterns is not really the best thing to do, I know; however, there is a principle here that I am getting at. I hate being harassed by the police.

This guy Rufo in Courtney has become infamous in my eyes for wanting to know what is in my bag when I re-enter the building after a late night of working with the paper. Oh, God do I hate that crap. One day when I was walking up the stairs, he comes chasing after me asking if I had any alcohol in my bag. Really, if I had alcohol in my bag, would I tell you? The worst part is, I don't even drink on campus.

Anyway, I just hate cops altogether. I hate the feeling I get when they are around, and I can honestly say I have never been happy to see one. You know, in England, the cops don't hide behind guns? Honestly, I bet cops would be a little more human if we all walked around packing heat on our hips. Walk by a cop and just tap your pistol, now who's afraid of who? Really, I got stopped for having marijuana on me at the Canadian border and I was seared to death, until I spoke with their customs officers. For some reason, the fact that they didn't tote pistols around just made me feel more at ease. Like I could talk to them.

Furthermore, cops and liars are synonomous to this mind. Cops are like snakes in the grass that will just slither their way into your brain by telling you whatever they think you want to hear to extract information from you.

I told some cops the truth once about an act of vandalism in which I was a participant because they had told me that if I cooperated with them, they would help me out in court. Did I see them there? Of course not. Time and time again I have given these officers of the law the benefit of the doubt and I trust them and cooperate with them. No longer shall I do this. I no longer even look at cops as being human. Now I understand why they are called pigs. I know their aim and I know my aim; they are completely different, and to me, my aspirations are more important than those of some power hungry gun toter.

Why celebrating diversity still misses the point

"To The Point"
By Haley Paton
Voice Columnist

Not too long ago I was watching stand-up on Comedy Central, and this comedian reminded me of my dad. He was talking about how he thinks that, as a father of a teenage daughter, it's important to spend time with her and be there for her so that she's successful in life, but that sometimes that's difficult, "because the things that she likes to do might get me in trouble, like---sleepovers." He impersonates his wife, saying something about his daughter's friends like, "did you see the rack on her?!" He said how he has to stay in his room clutching his Bible all night, "Help meh, JESUS!"

This dad going crazy around a flock of young girls reminded me of my dad of course, the man who figured out that if you slow-mo the part in *Return of the Jedi* just before Jabba the Hutt throws that slave girl into the pit, you can see her fall out of her top.

So, what the heck does this have to do with diversity? Well, that comedian that reminded me of my dad? He's black.

Don't get me wrong, I think that celebrating other cultures is wonderful—especially when it comes to food, I'm a fan of sushi and Indian food—but sometimes focusing too much on how we're all different makes us forget that, black or white or Asian or Hispanic, man or woman, gay or straight, we are all very much the same.

It's called being human.

Some people like being outside. Some people like to stay-up late. Some people like action movies. Some like horror movies. Some like to dance. These things don't have much to do with what we look like.

On the other hand, accepting differences shouldn't mean having to completely stay silent about them or ignore them either. Describing someone as "that black girl" or "that Asian guy" should be the same as saying "that redheaded guy" or "that dark-haired girl." The words don't mean anything other than physical description. And they shouldn't.

Until I was about 4 or 5, I lived in Germany on a military base that happened to be primarily black; whites were the minority. According to my mom, I was in awe of the black soldiers that I'd see when we were out. In addition to this, a couple that were friends with my parents were biracial. We have pictures of me hanging out with their daughter when she and I were little. And until I got older and the topic of ethnicity came up, I never thought this was a big deal. They were just friends of my parents.

And my gay aunts---I didn't figure them out until I was about nine. I always knew they were different but I never consciously thought about it. It didn't seem to matter.

And that's great! By my parents not sitting me down to talk about these things but instead just showing me that they weren't a big deal through example, they in turn weren't a big deal for me.

Unfortunately, I know that not all kids are exposed to diversity, but I think that what's more important is fostering acceptance of people in general. Think of Columbine and other school shootings---were these racially-motivated killings? No, of course not. Racism and homophobia, bigotry, being a "have" or a "have-not," are just excuses for throwing your own insecurities onto someone else. But it works in reverse, too. You shouldn't be nice to someone because they're Hispanic or a lesbian or Jewish or have more or less money or whatever; you should be nice to people because they're fellow human beings.

How about we celebrate humanity?

New Shows Announced at The Webster Theater
Visit them online at www.webstertheater.com

Tuesday, April 26th
Flickerstick
6pm, $12 adv

Thursday, April 28th (Underground)
Alana Davis
6pm, $13.50 adv

Friday, April 29th
Sevendust, Skindred
7pm, $21 adv

Friday, May 6th
Alternative Press & Vans Present:
Straylight Run, Minus The Bear,
The Honorary Title, Gratitude,
Spitalfield

Saturday, May 14th
Percy Hill
6pm, $10 adv

Thursday, June 2nd
Streetlight Manifesto
Gym Class Heros
Whole Wheat Bread
7pm, $10 adv

Friday, June 3rd
Foreigner
8pm, $29.50 adv

Friday, July 15h
Throne
6pm, $10 adv

Thursday, July 21st
Soilent Green
Perfect Murder
Into the Moat
Watch Them Die
6pm, $13.50 adv

Tuesday, Ocotober 4th
Therion
6pm, $20 adv

Interested in reviewing any of these shows?
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Arts & Entertainment

A reason for Emo kids to smile: *The Everglow* is a-Mae-zing

BY EMILY ENGEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Follow-up albums are always hard for me to listen to with an open mind. Usually after a band has made an incredible debut CD, it's somewhat difficult to make a follow up that's equally as interesting. On the other hand, I think back on the many follow-up albums that I have come in to contact with. Thursday's *Full Collapse*, Saves the Day's *Through Being Cool* and even No Doubt's *Tragic Kingdom* were all follow-ups that made those bands what they are. After anticipating Mae's return to the music scene after wearing out my *Destination: Beautiful* album, I was waiting to be a-Mae-zed once again by whatever they had to offer.

After more than a two year hiatus, and the release of a short acoustic album entitled *Destination: B-Sides* a few months ago, this melodic rock/emo band finally released their second full length album *The Everglow*.

Upon first listening to this album, you are introduced to the story of *The Everglow*; a fictitious "book" of sorts.

The opening track appropriately titled "Prologue" features the voice of a young woman, who guides you through the entire album, as if it were a book on tape. The same girl then closes the album with the "Epilogue," thanking us for listening. The CD itself is modeled after an old school record, complete with grooves. The liner notes complete the story book, with vibrant illustrations, that compliment the lyrics. An interesting concept, reminiscent of Saves the Day's album *In Reverie*, which also complimented the lyrics with obscure drawings.

The Everglow was released on March 28th

Attempting to do a little research on *Destination: Beautiful* using Google, I found that not only do all the usual music websites promote Mae's CDs, but they are also quite popular amongst the Christian music sites. Not to say that Mae totes a Bible around with them and preaches the good word of the Lord; I doubt I'd listen if they did. However, their lyrics do embrace a spirituality, a positive message that seems to be left out of most of today's mainstream music.

Being signed to Tooth & Nail Records, Mae is surrounded by pop-hardcore bands like Emery and Underoath. Despite these influences, Mae stays true to their emo roots, without screaming/harsh vocals and the usual soft music. The only exception is that *The Everglow* seems to be produced much more professionally than *Destination*, which in turn, leaves us with what sounds like heavier guitar and vocals and overall, a catchy sound.

As for the music itself, I found myself drawn to three particular songs: "Someone Else's Arms," "Painless," and "The Ocean." Each contain their own brand of original sound, mixed with lyrics that are easy to relate to.

Destination: Beautiful was an album based on love, whether it be for that special someone or for something as simple as driving (i.e. the songs "Summertime" and "Skyline Drive"). *The Everglow* takes on some new issues, ones of heartbreak, spirituality and even abortion, if I'm listening correctly to the song "Mistakes We Knew We Were Making," which describes an awkward visit to the hospital after realizing "the chances they were taking" weren't in their odds. Kudos to them for not making another trite, predictable song about that controversial issue.

This album is definitely a growing experience for the band. For anyone who appreciates this versatile genre known as emo, this album is definitely worth a listen. Don't be skeptical of the new Mae, embrace it and be welcomed to *The Everglow*.

Sin City takes viewers on a wild ride

BY DAN COOPER
VOICE REPORTER

Rain-soaked streets. Gritty black-and-white photography laced with splashes of color. Cool cars and dames. Constant voice-over narration. What do all these elements have in common? They are all found in the newest movie from director Robert Rodriguez (the *Spy Kids* trilogy), *Sin City*, based on the graphic novels by Frank Miller.

Miller, in fact, is along for the ride as a co-director and is joined by "special guest director" Quentin Tarantino. And what a ride it is. Rodriguez and Miller have crafted a visual masterpiece that is one high points of the first portion of the 2005 motion picture year.

Rodriguez and Miller have adapted three stories from the graphic novels, one involving a cop named Hartigan (Bruce Willis) and his attempts at stopping a child prostitute with an unusual shade of yellow (Nick Stahl) from raping and murdering 19-year old stripper Nancy Callahan (Jessica Alba), who Hartigan saved when she was 11.

A second story focuses on a rather ugly guy named Marv (Mickey Rourke) who's one-night stand with a gorgeous prostitute (Jamie King) results in tragedy and a mission to find the truth.

Story number three is the story of Dwight (Clive Owen) who tails his girlfriend Shellie's (Brittany Murphy) former boyfriend Jack (Benicio Del Toro) to the nearby city of Old Town, which is completely run by prostitutes. There Jack is killed by the women with the help of Dwight. It is then discovered the prostitutes killed a cop, which could disrupt the truce between Old Town and the cops.

Excessive violence and slam-bang action are present throughout the film as Rodriguez, who also shot, edited, and co-wrote the film, is relentless in his approach. He does, however, give each character a chance to develop with the intelligent script that holds nothing back.

-File Photo

Jessica Alba, playing Nancy, is one of the many A-list stars featured in the new motion picture, *Sin City*.

All the principal actors portray their characters well and are completely in character. One doesn't see Bruce Willis on screen; they see Hartigan. Willis, Alba, Owen, and Rourke all deliver winning performances when onscreen, crafting believable characters.

Superb support is provided by the star-studded cast as Del Toro, Murphy, and King all excel with their limited screen time. Other notables include Rosario Dawson as the chief prostitute in Old Town, Powers Boothe as a corrupt senator, Michael Clarke Duncan as a deadly assassin, and Elijah Wood as a creepy, silent, and cannibalistic farm boy.

While *Sin City* is not direct film noir, it has a definite noir feel to it. The black-and-white photography perfectly sets up this feel. But Rodriguez goes a step further and adds dashes of color throughout the film, be it the blue of a girl's eyes, the blond of a prostitute's hair, or the reds of lips, dresses, and blood, this movie is all about visual style. And it works.

Rodriguez shot the entire film against a green screen and added in the background detail later. One would never know it while watching this film.

This is one film that, despite the excessive and often graphic violence, is hard to forget. Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller have perfectly transformed a winning comic book series into a winning motion picture.

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Welcome to my party

By Laura Shaw
Voice Reporter

On Thursday, March 17th, Michael Glabicki, Jenn Wertz, Liz Berlin, Jim Donovan, Patrick Norman, and John Buynak, the members of Rusted Root, performed at the Webster Theatre. Rusted Root performed an amazing show and gave me twenty times more than I expected. As soon as they opened you could feel the energy radiating off them. Liz Berlin, a vocalist and percussionist, had a variation of over five instruments, some of which I wasn't even sure what to call.

Rusted Root played some of my favorite songs, from Welcome to My Party, Martyr, and my absolute favorite, Cats Are Blue. When I started screaming that it was their best song, the guy in the front of me must have disagreed, because he started fighting with me. The percussion was unsurprisingly amazing, with bongos, a djembe, a drum set with numerous cymbals, and much more. Rusted Root showed amazing presence on stage and proved they enjoyed performing.

Jenn constantly made eye contact with the crowd, laughing at us throughout the show. I got Liz's attention twice and almost fell to the floor. (Yes, I'm one of those corny, "They looked at me!" fans). The show was upbeat, with no time to rest. Michael, the lead vocalist, hit every note, intriguing me with his curly hair the entire time. Jenn and Liz's voices worked flawlessly together. Too Much was sung by Liz well, even though she fell ill earlier that day, canceling promotions and interviews such as mine.

It turned out to be one of the songs with the loudest crowd response, not including their hit, Send Me on My Way. The band was said to be under the weather, which worried me, but if I wasn't told that earlier, I would have never known by the way they played. I did wish Jim Donovan, the drummer, played longer drum solos. He had his two minute solos within songs, but I was hoping for a good five to ten minute one.

I was also disappointed that the various instruments Liz was using weren't loud enough. At some points it was hard to hear over the guitar and drums. Before the encore the crowd was so loud I couldn't help but block my ears. They ended the show with a three song encore of Black Diamond, Ecstasy, and Back to the Earth. I am a huge fan of Rusted Root and went into a complete trance during the show.

There were others with me, whom have never seen the band, so I asked what they thought. Their responses were all the same, "That was an awesome show!" Anyone who hasn't yet seen Rusted Root is truly missing out and should consider buying a ticket next time they come around.

Poetry Corner

Chill Between lights

I watched a firefly once,
As it flittered about,
Firing on furiously until it flickered out.

In between lights, it was lost and so was I
Even though the stasis of its glow lingered in my eye.

I couldn't guess its path with the new-gained knowledge
Of four hundred Phosphorescent moments, and college.

I even caught it briefly, but heat
From light from heat from light from who-knows-where
Burned my hands and feet,

Answering me with an apparent lesson:

Maybe -
No more incessant stressing;
No more "No" or "Yes"ing.
Maybe simply more searching, guessing:

The next bright spot will come,
But how and where?
Is time between lights darkness?
Sparkless air?

Continuity is like a heartless, artless chair. It
Rocks
Rocks
Rocks, but gets you nowhere.

I just want to spark,
Chill,
Spark, chill until I flare.

-Mike Forest

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Winners anounced for Student Scholarly Essay Competition

On April 4, the Westfield State College Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi held a reception for the three finalists of the chapter's Student Scholarly Essay Competition. Original scholarly works written by undergraduate students for a course at Westfield State College over the past two years were eligible to be entered. Many people enjoyed the event in the Garden Room at 333 Western Avenue on the college campus.

In first place was Ben Gaines. A senior majoring in English with a concentration in writing, Ben is interested in teaching, and plans to attend graduate school. His paper was called, "A Problem-Oriented Solution to Teaching Theory."

Jessica Castro, a senior majoring in Political Science and Mass Communications with a Minor in Women's Studies, placed second. After her upcoming graduation in May, she will stay at Westfield State to earn a Master's degree in Public Administration. Her paper was entitled, "Mother in the picture: *The Contributions of the Advertising World in Recalling Women to the Home.*" Previously, she represented the college with three of her professors where she presented this paper for a panel discussion at the National Women's Studies Association annual conference in Milwaukee.

The third place winner was Katie Ludwig whose paper was entitled, "Female Sensibilities and Sexuality are Critical in Making Love Bloom in *Twelfth Night.*" Katie is a junior majoring in English and Secondary Education who plans on teaching high school English.

Dr. Joan Rasool, Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs (Interim), congratulated the students before presenting them with their prizes. She praised the high level of scholarship and the effort made by these young people.

Project Mayhem Rocks University of Hartford

By Peter Norwood
A&E Editor

This past Thursday, I was granted the opportunity to go to a battle of the bands, in which WSC's own Jesse Lumb played with his band, Project Mayhem. Spirits were high throughout the night, it seemed that Lumb felt a win coming his way.

At around six of the clock, we showed up at Matt and Tim's (Jesse's cousins) house to collect their instruments. This was the first time I had met the other two members of Project Mayhem. Matt is a guy who is obviously a metal head (you can tell from his hair) and Tim is a reserved but passionate drummer. I would find out later that night how good the chemistry was between the family/band.

Photo
Jesse (far left) does vocals and guitar. Tim (behind the drumset) does drums. And Matt, (far right) sings and plays the bass.

Among the bands playing that night were (in order) Saturnine, The Kate Dunphy Band, Alone I Fall, Projeet Mayhem, and No One's Kind. Of these bands, the best (to me, and in order) were Project Mayhem, No One's Kind, and The Kate Dunphy Band.

No One's Kind had the best stage presence. Their lead vocalist was a charismatic young man who apparently hailed from Boston. They really didn't seem that far off from some pretty decent bands I have seen play at the Webster.

It was destiny, however that Project Mayhem should take home first place that night. The very first song they played was a cover of Black Sabbath's "War Pigs." Now, I know what you may be thinking. Hold up, tell me they didn't touch Black Sabbath's music. Believe me, when Jesse first told me of this plan earlier in the evening, I was as hesitant as you may be. However, I was amazed to find that they actually did the song some justice. Matt, sung the song, and sounded just like Ozzy did back when he could sing. Also important to note: Tim can play those drums and play them well. One of the parts of the band's performance, in fact, possibly the part that raked the votes in was Tim's prodigal expertise with the percussion instruments.

They also played a few original songs of theirs, including a ballad that I have come to know and love called "Medora." This may be a far reach, but if you have ever heard of Zox, you may be a fan of "Medora."

For more information about Project Mayhem, feel free to ask Jesse Lumb (located on the fourth floor of Courtney) or visit their website at www.projectmayhemrocks.com. They have a demo with three pretty good songs that deserve your attention. Also slated for release in the coming fall, they have an eleven track album coming out. If they won at last week's battle of the bands, you can also see them open on Spring Weekend.

Putting a spell on Joe Cocker

By Denise Nichols
Special To The Voice

Voices. I love voices. unique voices, voices that evoke feelings, voices with texture, voices that can hit the high notes. I love to close my eyes and be taken away from my reality by voices like Linda Ronstadt, Melissa Etheridge, Amy Lee, Rod Stewart, Michael McDonald, and Janis Joplin. Joe Cocker has a voice with texture, and he used to have a voice that could hit the high notes and made you feel the blues in your gut. In his new album, *Heart and Soul* on New Door Records, Cocker attempts to move you with feeling and hit notes that have long ago left him. With this particular effort unfortunately, the spirit is willing and the voice is weak. That makes me very sad.

I did not expect the fire of his earlier efforts; after all, we are all getting older, this Rock icon included. A repeat of the brilliance of *With a Little Help from My Friends* and *Mad Dogs & Englishmen* simply cannot be expected. His first two albums, released more than thirty years ago, were simply vocal masterpieces of extraordinary measure that time and hard living have made impossible to duplicate. Perhaps if Cocker had chosen better material suited to his now limited vocal range, a la Rod Stewart, he would have made a CD of merit. His vocals are more spoken than sung, and his voice appears to be incapable of sustaining notes longer than three or four seconds. Also, if his producer CJ Vanston had understood that Cocker's strength lies in the area of the blues, then maybe the arrangements would have reflected that strength.

In his attempt to cover classics from recent artists like U2 and REM to older ones like Paul McCartney and Marvin Gaye, Joe Cocker falls short, way short. Maybe I should clarify here that in addition to loving voices I also hold cover versions of really good songs to a higher standard. I know, I am tough, but my feeling is that if you are going to put your own spin on a song it should sound like yours and not like the original. Thirteen tracks appear on the CD, and each track fits neatly into the category of heart or soul. The love songs on the disk include: "I (who have nothing)," "Maybe I'm Amazed," "Don't Let Me be Lonely," "Jealousy" and "Everybody Hurts." Unfortunately, Cocker's renditions of these songs do not do them justice. In particular, his scratchy vocal and the elevator- muzac treatment of the backing track on "I (who have nothing)" made me long for the Tom Jones version.

His soul selections include Motown classics "What's Going On," "Chain of Fools," "I Keep Forgetting," "I Put a Spell on You," "Every Kind of People" and "Love Don't Live Here Anymore." These songs lend themselves perfectly to blues arrangements. Instead, Cocker et al treat them with the exception of "I Put a Spell on You," like they are producing a 1970's movie soundtrack. This treatment of these classic songs could be extensions of CJ Vanston's extensive movie soundtrack career, for the songs include forced sing-songy musical arrangements with Cocker's voice breathy and unable to sustain the melody. When Cocker sings "Mother, Mother..." the Marvin Gaye classic, you wonder if he is chasing his mother down the street because his voice sounds so out of breath. Vanston, in addition to producing the entire CD, appears on every track in various capacities without distinction. The talents of great session musicians like Mike Landau (guitar), Shane Fontayne (guitar) and Rafael Padilla (percussion) are wasted due to Vanston's unimaginative production.

He has two versions of "One" by U2 on the disk, one studio and one live from Belgium. The live version has a little more punch to it mainly because the backup band was larger than the one he used in the studio. Still, there was nothing remarkable in either version because neither effort has any life to it and the passion evoked through searing guitar and percussion work is absent; the musicians are just going through the motions. Cocker's vocals are weak but at least, unlike Bono, you can understand the words. The message of "One life, you got to do what you should" comes through in Cocker's clearer diction. However, the vocals lack any inspiration and both versions sound like slow Irish dirges instead of the love songs they are supposed to be.

There are a couple of tracks that were just too painful to listen to all the way through, namely "Maybe I'm Amazed," "Don't Let Me Be Lonely" and "Everybody Hurts." I just couldn't get past the slow, unmelodic pace of the songs. His vocal pacing is two steps above a William Shatner spoken word record. The orchestrations are stale and offer nothing new compared to the originals. Instead of a lover pleading for company in James Taylor's classic, Vanston's tin can guitar work and Cocker's vocal squeaking through the lyrics evoke the image of a bad American Idol audition. "Do me wrong, do me right. . . " is an appropriate lyric, for the version of this beautiful melodic love song has been treated anything but right.

Anyway, if I were to recommend that you pay one of the song sellers on the internet to download a song from this CD, then I would recommend Joe Cocker's version of "I Put a Spell on You," track number seven. With a guitar solo by Eric Clapton, this version is full of soul. The blues live through Cocker's voice, from the beginning primal scream of "you know I love you...girl I don't care if you want me...I put a spell on you," you are hooked. The orchestration, bluesy piano work by Vanston and Cocker's building vocal throughout the song evoke emotions of a jaded lover. I would have loved to have heard the same treatment done to "What's Going On," "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" and "I Keep Forgetting." Instead these potential bluesy gems were lifeless. In particular, the honky-tonk style piano on "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" sounds ridiculous and makes the track almost comical. This song screams for bluesy piano and searing, thumping guitar and should have been treated like a classic gem instead of another song for Joe Cocker to breathe heavily through.

I wanted to like this CD, I really did. I love Joe Cocker and this album with guest appearances by Skunk Baxter (Doobie Brothers), Steve Lukather (Toto), and Jeff Beck in addition to Clapton, portended such potential. Instead, *Heart and Soul* falls flat; it has neither heart nor soul. Joe Cocker needs to find some blues numbers, void of high notes, and get the blues back in his arrangements. My advice for Mr. Cocker is to start hanging out with B.B. King and Johnny Lang and give your fans some real blues.

New Found Glory plays for and with their fans

By Nikki LeBlanc
Voice Reporter

James Dewees, who is Reggie of Reggie and the Full Effect, followed the members and occupied the center of the stage carrying a handle of Jim Beam and wearing a bunny costume. Reggie took a large swig from the handle and the band started playing the first of their set.

Intrigued by the costumes Reggie and the Full Effect is one of the better bands I have seen live in a while. Not only was the music great but it was an intersting show to watch. Reggie plays the keyboard while doing vocals for the band.

The band played a variety of their music with "Girl Why'd You Run Away", "Congratulations Smack and Katy," "Your Boyfriend Hates Me," and a few new songs from the album that was realeased only a few days before the show on March 29. They also played an amazing cover of the song "Reign in Blood" from a band called Slayer.

After playing a great set Reggie announced that two more songs would be played, followed by something he called "The Fire Engine," a techno song, and a hardcore song. Sure enough, after two songs the band members left the stage and a man wearing a giant mask and riding a Power Wheels fire engine entered, spraying the crowd with water.

Reggie came out wearing a hardly there version of a fireman uniform, a pair of short shorts and suspenders. The man behind the mask was unveiled and turned out to be Jordan of New Found Glory.

The band then moved on to playing their promised techno song then retreated back stage once more. Reggie came out wearing even less than before, this time in short green shorts and smeared in what appeared to be red blood.

The rest of the band wore grim reaper costumes and maintained a creepy stage presence while Reggie stripped into even less clothing, finally wearing only a black Speedo. The band finished with one of their more hardcore songs leaving the stage with a satisfied audience.

New Found Glory was next up on stage and also put on a really good show, though not as lively as Reggie and the Full Effect. The band includes Jordan Pundik - Vocals, Ian Grushka - bass, Steve Klein - guitar, Chad Gilbert - guitar, Cyrus Bolooki - drums and James Dewees of Reggie and The Full Effect, plays the keyboard.

NFG played most of their hit songs and a variety of older songs, including "Boy Crazy," "2's And 3's," and "This Disaster." They also played a song called "I Don't Wanna Know" with one of the members from the band Eisley, Sherri Dupree.

One particular moment that stood out during their set was when the band allowed a fan to come on the stage to play a song with them. The girl was pulled on stage and given a guitar. She was shaking as they duct taped the guitar strap to fit her and began to play "Head On Collision" and let her join in with them, also giving her a microphone to sing every so often.

The set list ended with an encore that included "Better Off Dead," "Intro," "All Downhill From Here," and "The Goodbye Song."

Emily Tangney slides safely into home, barely beating the tag applied by the Western Connecticut catcher, to score the game-winning run in the Owls' 7-1 victory over Western Connecticut in their home opener April 5. *Photo By Mike Coughlin*

Softball Owls Split With Western Conn.

WESTFIELD – Westfield State and Western Connecticut State split a softball doubleheader on Tuesday, April 5, in the northern opener for both teams.

Westfield (4-6) won its home opener, 7-1, while Western Conn. (7-4) came back to win the nightcap, 4-1.

The Owls broke open a close game with a five-run uprising in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Junior shortstop Kara Doleva (Shutesbury) had two RBI, including a game-winning RBI single in the fourth inning. Senior catcher Liz Olivera rapped an RBI double to tie the score in the third inning.

Senior third baseman Casey Greggo was the only player with multiple hits in the Owls' eight hit attack; she was 2 for 2. Westfield also took advantage of six walks by three Western Connecticut pitchers.

Winning pitcher Leah Peterson allowed five hits and struck out two in going the distance.

Freshman second baseman Kristen Lugovich (West Haven, CT) collected two singles for the Colonials.

In Game Two, Western Connecticut outhit Westfield State, 11-2, in pulling away for a 4-1 triumph. The Colonials, who stranded 11 baserunners, broke a scoreless tie with two runs in the fifth inning.

Westfield scored a run in the bottom of the fifth and had the bases loaded with one out. But Western Connnecticut survived the scoring threat in a large part due to a sensational fielding play by third baseman Kaitlin Nocera on a wicked smash off the bat of Peterson.

Corrney Romyns ripped a triple and single for the winners. Lugovich also rapped two singles in the second game.

Sophomore Lindsey Adams (Westfield) pounded a double for one of the Owls' two hits.

Freshman Shelby Slie (Seymour, CT) went the distance for the mound win; she walked two and struck out six.

Hebert, Murphy Pace Owls Past Springfield In Baseball

SPRINGFIELD – Sophomore catcher Chris Hebert (South Hadley) went 2 for 5, including a three-run homer, and junior J.P. Murphy (Pittsfield) pitched eight solid innings to lead Westfield State to a 10-3 victory over Springfield College on Monday, April 4.

The Owls scored five runs in the middle innings to take a 5-1 lead. Springfield scored twice in the bottom of the sixth, but Westfield put away the game with a five-run uprising in the ninth, sparked by Hebert's three-run homer.

Murphy hurled eight complete innings, scattering eight hits, striking out four, and issuing no walks.

The Owls collected nine hits and were aided by eight walks and five Springfield errors. Freshman second baseman Justin Parr – Westfield's No. 9 batter – was 2 for 3 with two RBI and two sacrifice hits. Freshman outfielder Matt Tirrell of Pittsfield was 2 for 3 with a double and three runs scored. Senior third baseman Matt Gurley was 2 for 4 with two runs scored.

Westfield's next game is Tuesday, April 12, when it hosts Becker at 3:30.

The Westfield State College softball and baseball fields feature new scoreboards in rightfield. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

The Westfield State College softball team worked hard for two consecutive days to remove the large sheets of ice from the outfield to prepare for their home opener. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Track, Field Teams Open Season At Springfield

The Westfield State men's and women's track and field teams opened their outdoor season by competing in a meet at Springfield College on Tuesday, April 5.

No score was kept in the women's meet, but in men's action Springfield out-pointed Westfield, 129.5 to 63.5.

"I was pleased with our performances," said veteran coach Sean O'Brien. "We did much better than I thought we would."

Senior standout thrower Peter King was a triple winner, placing first in the hammer throw (129-7), discus (142-8) and shot put (50-11).

Also finishing for the Westfield men were: Dave Bergeron (javelin, 176-8) and Shawn McCorquodale (long jump, 22-1). Placing second were Eric Kelly (110 hurdles, 16.77), Matt Shannon (long jump, 20-10), Chris Flynn (triple jump), and Stan P'au (hammer throw, 126-0).

O'Brien was impressed with sophomore Jacques Moret's third-place clocking of 23.44 in the 200. Moret had never competed in track and field before this season.

Senior All American Tessa Donoghue was a double winner in the women's meet, placing first in the high jump (5-2) and long jump (18-2). Junior co-captain CC Costello won the javelin (117-11) and junior Heather Wenninger hit the tape first in the 5000 meter run (20:09.14).

Also running well was Kristin Bodner, who placed second in the 5,000 (20:57.66).

And now your. . .

Intramural D-Ball Champs. . .

BLUMPKIN

OUT-DOOR SOCCER PLAY-OFFS WILL CONTIN-UE NEXT WEEK!

Anyone playing intramural floor hocket MUST purchase a mouthguard! Mouthguards can be purchased in the intramural office (Parenzo 169) between the hours of 12 p.m. and 10 p.m.

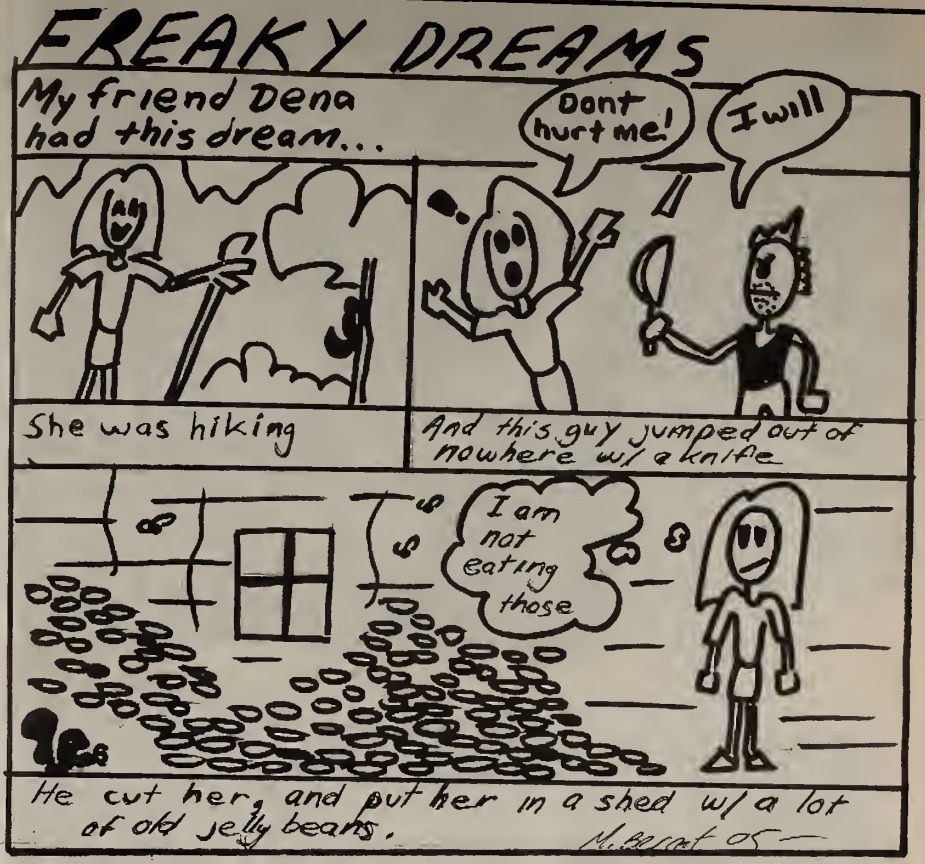
IM BOARD WILL BE MEETING NEXT WEEK - CALL THE INTRAMURAL OFFICE

Intramurals Still Accepting Rosters For:
-Co-ed Sand Volleyball
-Floor Hockey (Men & Women's)
-Sport Trivia
-Softball (Men, Women's & Co-ed)
-Ultimate Frisbee

Open Gym Hours for both the Woodward Center and Parenzo Gym can be found on the website:

www.wsc.ma.edu/athletics/intra.htm

Also check the website for upcoming games!



Voice photographer, Mike Coughlin, attended the Maroon 5 concert at the Mullins Center in Amherst on Monday, April 6. Coughlin, who took the photo of lead singer Adam Levine, pictured at right, said he could overhear Levine saying "The Voice is AWESOME! Everyone should read it!"

Thanks Adam, your loyalty is encouraging.

The Back Page -- This Week at WSC

Annual Student Art Exhibit
4/19/05
2 p.m.
through May 11
in Arno Maris

April is Hepatitis Awareness Month!

Festival Chorus of Westfeld & WSC Chorale
4/9/05
7:30 p.m.
Second Congregational Church

Mon 4/11	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	"Bent" DA 8p.m.
Tue 4/12	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	WSC Baseball against Becker - WOOD - 3:30pm
Wed 4/13	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm	WSC Softball @ Amherst - Away - 3:30pm
Thurs 4/14	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Dinner with WSKB 89.5 - DC - 4pm - 7pm	Open Rock Climbing - WOOD - 6pm - 9pm
Fri 4/15	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 4/16	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML -	**Sun 4/17**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Voice editor shadows President Carwein for a day
pg. 1

Technology chief resigns
pg. 1

WSC Professors respond to Vagina Monologues review
pg. 7

The story of *The Everglow*
pg. 10

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | April 18, 2005 | Issue XXIII

Averi and State Radio to play spring weekend

By Mike Forest
Voice Reporter

Make a mental note to avoid a hangover on the morning of Saturday, April 23 so you can wake up in time to catch the 12 p.m. start of this year's spring weekend concert on Ely Hill.

The bands sure to rock you into consciousness this year include Anthem, a reggae hip hop group that mostly plays covers, Battle of the Bands winner Saturn, former Dispatch member Chad Stokes Urmston's band State Radio, and headliner Averi. Anthem is playing 12 p.m. - 1 p.m, Saturn is playing 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., State Radio is playing 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., and Averi is playing 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Averi is a pop-rock band whose first album, "Drawn to Revolving Doors" is drawing critical acclaim. "This Boston-based quintet's self-released third album sounds as if it should be a major-label debut," Ted Drozdowski of the Boston Phoenix wrote in a review of the band.

Drozdowski added, "Singersongwriter Chad Perrone pens love stories with deep hooks and carries off graceful melodies in a pleasing, high voice," and "you can hear everything from the small dips of a guitar's tremolo bar to subtle keyboard pads that support verses with near-transparency." Check Averi out at www.averimusic.com.

State Radio's Chad Stokes Urmston is best known for his vocals, guitar, bass, and percussion in the genre-defying Dispatch. Dispatch combined elements of rock, funk, and reggae, growing a global fan base without signing to a major label

Spring Weekend - Page 2

File photo

Averi will be the band to catch this spring weekend. They take to the hill behind Ely on Saturday, April, 23 at 4 p.m.

Thespians have a major to call their own

By Mike Forest
Voice Reporter

Students with theatre concentrations may soon be able to call themselves theatre majors.

The Westfield State theatre department has petitioned to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to create an independent theatre major out of what is now an English major with a theatre concentration.

Jack Shea, a professor in the theatre department, said "We believe that having a major gives us the status and the recognition that we are in fact what we are." The process of getting the major must go through several steps before it becomes reality, but the department is optimistic in its hope that it will be available in the fall 2005 semester, he said.

"People tend to say that they're majoring in theatre anyway," Shea said. "Essentially what it just means is that they will become what they feel they are - a theatre major, and their diploma will reflect that," he said.

The department is confident in the quality of its program, and feels the change is necessary.

"We believe we have a very well-rounded, very solid curriculum for the theatre major and we feel that students who come through this program are going to come out with a very solid, well-rounded theatre… education and training," Shea said.

"The department is prepared for and deserving of the change," Shea said. "We essentially have been operating as a major for a number of years now," he said, adding, "We have the curriculum in place; we have the faculty in place; we have the resources and facilities in place."

The program itself will change very little, Shea said. The curriculum was changed about 5 years ago and new staff has recently been added, both serving to prepare for the department's bid for a major.

A couple of "tweaks" have been proposed, Shea said, but nothing major. "We're just basically adding a course and moving a course from a particular category within the major to another category," he said.

However, the change from concentration to major will have many significant effects. First, it will give Westfield State College the recognition of being the only of the nine Massachusetts state colleges to have majors in art, music, and theatre.

Also, it may attract more potential students interested in theatre. "It will certainly help to attract

Theater - Page 2

Senate report leaves higher ed. officials hopeful

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

Westfield State College could be receiving over a million dollars in funding from the state if both houses of the Massachusetts legislature pass recommendations made by a senate task force on higher education.

Some of that money would go to hiring more faculty members and raise the salaries of some of the country's most poorly paid professors.

Working for $20,000 less than what you're worth is not something most people would choose to do. Mathematics professor Julian Fleron does just that and has made his stance on the importance of public higher education clear.

A few months ago he could be seen outside of Parenzo hall toting a sandwich sign supporting the faculty union and their long fight for a contract.

"It seems kind of silly to have 'office hours in the cold' in 60 degree weather," Fleron said.

His dedication to public higher education may have stemmed from his undergraduate days at Cornell University.

Going to school at Cornell, Fleron attended college with students who "drove around in brand new BMW's their parents bought them as birthday gifts," Fleron said.

"I could leave and go work for MassMutual for more [money] but I stay here because I believe in public higher education. Here, a lot of students are first generation college students, school tends to matter more for them. This is the environment I want to teach in," Fleron said.

Fleron supports the report for its recommendations. Chief among them include investing $400 million over 5-7 years to fully fund the formula

Report - Page 3

WSC spends money to make money

By Lisandra I. Billings
News Editor

Barry Maloney has worked at Westfield State College for 13 years. During that time he has witnessed a 6 percent decrease in the funds that the college receives from the state. This year, the school decided to do something about it and hired a Washington lobbyist.

"We're behind in the times," Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations, said. "We know we won't get any money from the state, so we've got to find it elsewhere."

The first step on the school's agenda was to find the right law firm. Maloney said that he and Jeanne Julian, Assistant to the President, worked together on the project and researched and referenced many credible law firms.

"We held interviews, conferences and meetings," he said. "Believe me, it was a long process, but we wanted to do it right."

Though many of Westfield State's sister colleges, such as Holyoke Community College and the University of Massachusetts, have hired law firm Camble and Crane, the school decided to work with D.C. sledgehammers Patton & Boggs. Though some might disagree with the school's choice, due to the fact that the firm has never worked with a Massachusetts school before, Maloney stands behind the decision.

"Patton and Boggs is the largest law firm in Washington," he said. "They've got more resources

Maloney - Page 3

On the cover: The play *Bent* was performed April 8-16 in Dever Auditorium. The play featured the story of homosexuality during the Holocaust.

One 'Souper' interview with the boys who brought you *1985*

A&E pg. 10

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Spring Weekend

or getting mainstream radio play.

Urmston, like the other two members of Dispatch, moved on and started his own project that is reminiscent of his contributions to Dispatch. State Radio is currently touring with O.A.R. (Of a Revolution) around the country and headlining many venues in the northeast. More info can be found at www.stateradio.com.

Saturn won a chance to play spring weekend by winning the Battle of the Bands. They also received a $300 prize.

Between sets you can jump around in the moonbounce, challenge your friends to a race in the obstacle course, or scale the rock wall, all of which will be in the Ely Hill area from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Also, you can grab a bite to eat at the barbeque during the concert with your meal pass, which will be available at the dining commons soon.

Don't forget to purchase a $20 guest pass at the Campus Center window if you have a friend who's a fan of any of the bands. Each student can get one pass, but there is a cap for each residence hall because of fire regulations, so get them soon.

Also, remember to validate your student ID in order to get into the show. Check out the schedule in this issue to see what else is going on spring weekend.

Life is a Highway: Spring Weekend 2005 Schedule

Friday, April 22nd

4:30-6 p.m. - Road Trip Buffet - DC

Kentucky Fried Chicken
Philly Cheese Steak Subs
North End Spaghetti and Meatballs
w/ Garlic Bread, Texas Quesadilla Bar
Maine Baked Potato Bar, Salad Bar

7-11 p.m. - Drive In - Ely Green
7- 9 p.m. - National Lampoon's Vacation
9-11 p.m. - Road Trip
*free popcorn, candy

11 p.m.-12 a.m. Brown Bag Bingo
Ely Main Lounge
12-1 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
Ely Main Lounge

Saturday, April 23rd (Ely Hill)

12-5:30 Novelties: Moonbounce, Rockwall, Bootcamp
12:30-4:30 Alcohol Services
Noon Lunch: Ham, Turkey, or Veggie Subs, Cookies, Chips, Fruit Salad, Beverages
12-1 p.m. Anthem
1:30-2 p.m. Saturn- Battle of the Talents Winner
2:30-3:30 p.m. State Radio
4-5:30 p.m. Averi

From the Editor's Desk

I Smell an Election

Break out your ballots for this Tuesday and Wednesday, polling stations are open in the Dining Commons, Wilson and Ely for the Student Government Association's Executive Council election.

Nomination papers were due this past Friday at 5 p.m. leaving a painfully short campaign period. This election determines how SGA is run; the leadership will affect all manner of things from on-campus activities to making suggestions and complaints to the Dining Commons.

An SGA election is different because candidates don't have the option for a lengthy debate on the issues. It boils down to experience, personality and who can string the biggest banner across the Ely campus center. The lack of a substantial campaign period does not relay the importance to the outcome of the election.

Last year about 300 students voted. Maybe the ones who didn't vote thought SGA doesn't do anything. This was not the case this year.

We've seen a very active SGA this year whether it is for charitable activities or the passage of a recent resolution to support the senate task force report on public higher education.

The most prominent and important position on the executive council is president. The president determines the direction SGA will take for that year. He or she is also responsible for creating a strong council that has the ability to get things done.

A strong, experienced president can make a significant difference on campus. A weak or inexperienced one will only turn off students from the campus political process. It's not a position to be taken lightly or treated as a joke.

Over the course of this past year current president Matthew Curran has done a fine job at the helm of SGA. He has decided to run again and I strongly urge you to vote for him on Tuesday or Wednesday. The professional attitude he takes down to SGA is laudable.

Speaking as someone who also has a visible post on campus I can say it's not an easy thing to do. Both positions draw criticism and Matt has seen his fair share and I can't think of a better candidate for the job.

I'll leave you on a personal note. My freshman year I was living down the hall from Matt in Courtney Hall. It was the first or second month of school and as I walked out of my door one Saturday morning I caught Matt heading towards the bathroom, with a roll of paper towels in one hand and some cleaner in the other. I asked him where he was headed. "Someone threw up in the bathroom. I'm going to clean it. I don't want the hall to get a fine."

He gets my vote.

Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Theater

and recruit more students because we do know that there are students who… do not even consider us because we're not technically a major," Shea said.

The title of major will give theatre students more prestige on their resumes, possibly affording them more career and graduate school opportunities, Shea said. "It is about perception," he said, "and perception can be, in certain settings, very, very important."

Nick Combs, a student majoring in English with a concentration in theatre, concurred, saying, "It will certainly help, putting it on my acting resume, that I graduated with a degree in (theatre) instead of saying 'English.'"

Combs believes that the declaration of theatre as a major will also help the department financially. He cited the limited budget that Westfield's program has, saying, "You look at Suffolk University – for their main stage they get $50,000." He said, "We get, like, I believe $5,000 for the year."

Added funds could allow for more freedom in productions put on by the department, especially in set design and in costume design, which, Combs says, utilizes mostly thrift store-bought items. "We do amazing things, but if we could have the opportunity to make big, extravagant costumes, then it would certainly help," he said.

Students can already minor in theatre and that program will not change, Shea said.

L.A.F.E. PRESENTS...

The Annual Dinner Banquet

On April 27 from 5p.m. to 7p.m. in the Scanlon Banuet Hall

Tickets are $5 at the Teller Window or purchase yours from any L.A.F.E. member

Questions? Call Glenda @ EXT. 7642 after 7p.m.

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Safe! Softball season has begun and the Westfield State College women's softball team has taken to the field.

Report

established by the Board of Higher Education in the 1990's to calculate each campus' annual budget request.

Also included would be investments of $1.7 billion for the UMass system over 5 years and $1.2 billion for state and community colleges over 10 years for capital improvements.

Though the report is encouraging for those in higher education, none of the recommendations become law until Senate bill No. 780 is passed by both houses of the state legislature.

"Everyone has a lot of work to do to make this happen," said Fleron. "This is going to be a real fight to do this."

The fight to get the bill passed has begun in earnest at the Student Government Association. On Tuesday April 5 SGA passed resolution 2005-01. The resolution endorsed the report's recommendations and set about creating a task force of no less than 5 senators to coordinate student support for the report's recommendations. The resolution passed unanimously.

"Everyone has a lot of work to do to make this happen."

Prof. Julian Fleron

In addition to the resolution, a van has been arranged to bring a group of students to the statehouse to bend the ears of representatives and senators in hopes of persuading them to support the bill. Barry Maloney, Vice President of Advancement and College Relations, along with Brent Bean, a staff associate at WSC and a Westfield city councilor, helped to organize the a van-load of students to appear in Boston for the annual student statehouse day.

"Historically the senate has been behind us on public higher education, the house has been tougher on us," said Maloney as he briefed the 8 students who would be attending. He added that student involvement is crucial in getting the attention of those representatives to pass the recommendations. Student statehouse [illegible] held on April 13.

Westfield State College president Vicky Carwein said she was pleased with the recommendations in an article that ran in the Springfield Republican.

Should the recommendations in the report be followed, Westfield State would receive an additional $1.68 million a year.

Carwein said much of that money would be used for replacing the 16-20 professors that have retired but whose spaces have not been filled. Renovations would also be made to Bates and Parenzo halls. Bates is currently not accessible to the handicapped.

Should those recommendations be made law the money won would ease the burden on WSC faculty.

"Look at 1988-2004, there are six fewer full time faculty, and we have 700 more students," Fleron said.

"The new dorm is an immediate response. We have more students coming because we flat out don't have the money," Fleron said, mentioning that student fees in Massachusetts are well above the national average as compared to the higher education systems of other states.

The statistics given in the senate task force report paint a grim picture of higher education in the state of Massachusetts.

There has been a 32.6 percent decrease in the higher education budget between the years of 2001 and 2004, the largest cut per capita of any state in the union.

Carwein and Fleron both encourage everyone to call or write their representatives to support bill No. 780.

Voice of the Week

Josh Yoke

Year at WSC: Freshman

Major: Undeclared

Role in WSC's production of Bent: Max

Past acting experiences: He has not been in any other shows. This is his very first acting experience.

Why he chose to partake in Bent: "Jesse and our other friends decided to try out, just to be funny. I asked for a non-speaking part and ended up with the lead."

Favorite aspect of being a part of the cast: "Getting to know everybody, it was a lot of fun, and there are a lot of great people."

Favorite scene in Bent: "Greta's Club because it's really funny - and I get to be mean to an RA."

Favorite movie: Garden State

Favorite TV show: Family Guy

What he wanted to be when he was little: "I've never known what I wanted to do."

Thoughts on Freshman year: "Its been a lot of fun-loud and crazy-but fun...4th floor hard core!"

Compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Maloney

than any other firm we interviewed and they're the same price range. It just makes sense to use them."

What exactly is the price range? According to Maloney, the school will be paying the firm $10,000 a month, which, Maloney said, is a fairly standard procedure.

"It may seem like a lot of money," he said, "but when you look at how much money we could make in the end, it's pennies in comparison."

Maloney said that the school is hoping to get approximately $4.5 million from various national reserves for five different earmarked projects that were chosen through various meetings with Julian and the faculty department heads in the fall. Though they began with thirty ideas, after various brainstorming sessions with Patton & Boggs, they were able to single out five, but hope to work with the other ideas in the future.

"Just because we've only selected five doesn't mean we won't get to the others," he said. "This is a learning experience for all of us, we want to feel around and see what kind of money is out there before we jump in completely."

Maloney said that the firm has already begun working, and the school should begin to see the benefits of the process by the time the national fiscal year ends in October.

"It's a chance, but a good one," he said. "In this day and age if you want something, you have to find it and that's exactly what we intend to do."

Photo by: Cliff Ashbrook

Sunday April 10 the thermometer climbed to about 60 degrees, and many students took to the green including this one who found some shade in his hammock.

Voices Overheard

What is your drink of choice for Spring Weekend?

Nick Combs
Class of 2007
Theater

"Perrier."

Eileen McLaughlin
Class of 2006
History/Education

"Corona."

Megan Carmichael
Class of 2005
Elementary Ed/Liberal Studies

"Peppermint Patties." (Peppermint schnapps with chocolate sauce)

Andrew Roberts
Class of 2007
Criminal Justice

"Apple juice."

Voices Overheard compiled by Matthew Bernat

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church in the Center of Westfield

115 Elm Street
(Next to Westfield Bank)

Phone Number: 568-0429

Sundays:
9:30a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:45a.m. - Morning Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Third World Organization and Westfield State College invites you to the:

50th Annual West Indian Festival

The event will include:
Caribbean Cuisine, Carvnival Dancers, Educational Speakers, Raffles, Music and much much more!

5pm - 8pm on April 30, 2005 in the Third World Room

Come to the after party from 10pm to 3am in the Ely Main Lounge!
$3 BF Midnight, $5 After
I.D. is a MUST!!
For more info. contact Omar @ 572-7225

Woman says Jackson begged to sleep with her son

BY STUART PFEIFER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA MARIA, Calif. – The mother of a 13-year-old boy who accused Michael Jackson of molesting him in 1993 described how the sobbing and trembling pop star talked her into allowing her son to share his bed dozens of times, at home and on vacations to Monaco, Florida, Las Vegas and New York.

The mother said she initially refused her son's requests to stay in Jackson's bedroom but relented after an emotional confrontation with the singer at his Las Vegas hotel suite.

Sobbing and trembling, Jackson told the mother that she should let her son sleep in his bedroom at the Mirage hotel, the mother said. Jackson had taken the family with him on vacation several months after meeting the mother at a Los Angeles rental-car shop.

"He said, 'You don't trust me? We're a family. ... Why aren't you allowing (your son) to stay with me?' " the mother testified.

The mother said she had refused to let her son sleep with Jackson during earlier visits to his Neverland ranch but permitted him to stay in Jackson's room that night. The next day, Jackson took the family to a David Copperfield magic show and gave the mother a gold Cartier bracelet, she said.

For the next several months, Jackson, 46, and the boy were frequent companions, the mother said. The pop star traveled to the family's Santa Monica house and slept with the boy about 30 times, she said. He would leave when the boy went to school and return after school, she said. She also said she let him sleep with Jackson during unaccompanied visits to Neverland.

Jackson also continued to shower the mother with gifts, she said, including more jewelry and a $7,000 gift certificate to boutique store Fred Segal. He also gave her his credit card to use on shopping trips, she said.

Last week, a former Jackson security guard testified that he saw the pop star performing a sex act on the same boy in a restroom at his ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Jackson is on trial for allegedly molesting a different Los Angeles boy four times in 2003. Evidence about his 1993 relationship is part of the prosecution's attempt to show that the pop star has a history of molesting boys, evidence prosecutors say supports the current allegations.

The woman's son, now 25, is not expected to testify at Jackson's trial. A 1993 criminal investigation of Jackson's relationship with the boy was highly publicized, but the case unraveled after Jackson paid a settlement of more than $20 million to the family and the boy stopped cooperating with investigators.

After the Las Vegas trip, the mother said Jackson took the family on vacations to France, where he was honored at the World Music Awards, and twice to Florida. Jackson also met the family in New York, where they had traveled for a wedding. Each time, she said, Jackson slept with her son in his room and rented a separate room for the mother and her daughter.

In August 2003, five months after the Las Vegas trip, the family told police they suspected Jackson had molested the boy. Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville has prohibited prosecutors from disclosing the amount of the settlement to the jury. Last week, a 24-year-old man, the son of a former Jackson mer maid, said the pop star also paid him a legal settlement after fondling him sexually.

The mother who testified Monday said that she initially didn't think there was anything wrong with her son sleeping with Jackson. She ended up losing custody of her son and has not spoken to him in 11 years, she said.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Tom Sneddon asked whether she regretted the decision she made at the Mirage hotel to let her son start sleeping with Jackson. The woman blinked several times, appearing to fight back tears before answering, "Very much so."

She said she became concerned about her son's relationship with Jackson after the boy's behavior started to change. He became withdrawn, started dressing like the pop star and didn't want to spend time with his family.

Bush, Sharon clash over West Bank settlement

BY PETER WALLSTEN &
TYLER MARSHALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

CRAWFORD, Texas – President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon differed strongly and publicly Monday over the future of West Bank settlements under the U.S.-backed peace plan, underscoring the fragile nature of negotiations to end the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Bush condemned the expansion of Jewish settlements as a violation of the so-called "road map" plan for a two-state solution. But Sharon, who has proposed expanding a major settlement east of Jerusalem, said Monday that the development and others would be protected under any final agreement and remain part of Israel. Their comments came after the two leaders met for an hour and a half at Bush's ranch here.

"I told the prime minister of my concern that Israel not undertake any activity that contravenes road map obligations, or prejudice final status negotiations," Bush said after the meeting. "Therefore, Israel should remove unauthorized outposts and meet its road map obligations regarding settlements in the West Bank."

The impasse demonstrated that Bush and Sharon, despite a close alliance over the past four years, now offer widely different interpretations of what the U.S.-supported peace plan means for settlements.

Drafted by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, the blueprint envisions a series of reciprocal steps by the two sides that would culminate in Palestinian statehood. The plan requires that Israel dismantle offshoots of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and that Palestinians crack down on militant groups.

Bush views the two-state plan as key to his broader agenda of promoting political reforms in the Middle East. But many analysts say he must challenge Sharon on the settlement expansion to keep the road map on track and to build credibility with Palestinians as an even-handed broker.

Sharon is under fire from many in his own right-leaning Likud Party for his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. He is trying to mollify those critics by standing by the proposed expansion of a settlement east of Jerusalem called Maale Adumim.

The expansion, announced last month, has outraged Palestinians, who say it would cut off Palestinian areas in east Jerusalem from the West Bank, and also significantly hinder north-south movement within the West Bank. They say such a change would make it harder for Palestinians to build a free-standing state that is not carved into cantons by border crossings or tunnels.

Sharon refused Monday to concur with Bush's statement that the settlement's expansion violates the road map. Instead, the prime minister insisted that West Bank settlements will be protected throughout negotiations.

"It is the Israeli position that the major Israeli population centers will remain in Israel's hands under any future final status agreement with all related consequences," he said.

Both men offered some room for compromise.

Bush repeated the assurances given to Sharon in a letter a year ago that – given the entrenched nature of many settlements – it was "unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949."

That language had given Israelis the expectation that they would be able to maintain some major West Bank settlements. Sharon pledged to "fulfill my commitment" to remove unauthorized outposts where settlers often position rusty trailers on bare West Bank hilltops.

But as Bush and Sharon spoke Monday, it was clear the two men – while reiterating their friendship and mutual interests in ranching – have different visions about how to accomplish Middle East peace.

Sharon, directing his remarks to television viewers back home, said in Hebrew that his Gaza pullout was the first step toward an end to the dispute with Palestinians, but that further steps under the road map would be possible after the Palestinians eliminated violence.

"I hope that this stage will happen and that we will only move to the road map after this intervention by the Palestinians against terror," he said.

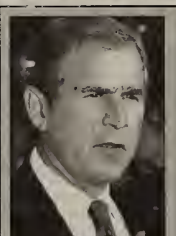
Sharon strongly promoted his Gaza withdrawal initiative, calling on the Palestinians to help and declaring it would "strengthen Israel, improve the quality of life for Israeli citizens, reduce the friction between us and the Palestinians and can pave the way towards the implementation of the road map."

Bush linked the road map to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, making it clear that he hoped the pullout would build momentum for the peace plan. But Sharon took pains to portray the peace plan as a long-term approach, a stance reflecting Israeli skepticism about the plan. He said a successful Gaza withdrawal by Israel, with the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority, would build confidence on both sides and clear the way for two states.

"I want to focus the world's attention on getting it right in the Gaza, and then all of a sudden, people will start to say, 'Gosh, well, that makes sense,' " Bush said. "The Palestinians will see it's a hopeful – there's a hopeful way forward."

Independent analysts argued that Bush needed to set down his differences with Sharon on the settlements issue to protect the road map.

"If Bush truly wants to be remembered as the man who finally brokered a deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians, then the West Bank has to be next," said Geoffrey Kemp, a Middle East specialist at the Nixon Center, a Washington think tank. "It's important that Bush lay down this marker now because the turmoil in Israel will get much worse in the coming months, first, because the actual withdrawal from Gaza will be very public and very painful, but also because, for the huge lobby in favor of settlements, it's an ominous sign that they will be next."



-File Photo

-File Photo

President George Bush (pictured at left) and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (pictured at right) have publically disagreed over the future of the West Bank settlements.

Rapper is in court over nail salon dispute

BY KAREN FRIEFELD
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK – Hip-hop artist Foxy Brown turned up in Manhattan Criminal Court Monday to face assault charges for allegedly punching and kicking two workers at a nail salon who blocked the door after they claim she refused to pay for a pedicure last summer.

Brown, 25, whose real name is Inga Marchand, allegedly bashed Myoung Yi and Sun Ji Song Aug. 27 at Bloomie Nails after she got a pedicure but was denied a manicure because of the late hour, prosecutors say.

"She refuses to pay and tries to leave," said Barbara Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney's office. The workers blocked the door, and then her car door.

Brown doesn't deny she got into a fight with the manicurists. But her attorney, Joseph Tacopina, said the first officer on the scene didn't notice any injuries on the workers. "This is someone trying to use the criminal justice system to extract money from a celebrity," Tacopina said.

Brown also denies that she wouldn't pay for the pedicure. She said she was charged for both a manicure and a pedicure and refused to pay the extra $20.

"They didn't give me the manicure," she explained outside the courtroom Monday.

She dismissed the idea that she would try to skip out on paying. "A $20 pedicure? Are you serious? Look at me," Brown said, sporting Chanel sunglasses, translucent white nail polish and a Dolce & Gabbana bag.

Brown said she's now focusing on an album she's doing with rapper Jay-Z. "I am trying not to be deterred by any negativity," she said.

The rapper was ordered by Judge Evelyn Laporte to stay away from the manicurists and return to court May 6.

Murdoch plans focus on websites

By James T. Madore
Newsday

WASHINGTON – Media mogul Rupert Murdoch on Wednesday outlined plans to overhaul the Web sites of his New York Post, Fox News Channel and other properties to make them destinations for young people, who increasingly don't have time for daily newspapers or the evening news broadcasts of televisico networks.

Speaking to a meeting of top editors here, the chief executive of News Corp. said he wants to shake up the Internet in the same way that Fox and the Fox Broadcast Network forced changes upon older TV networks. "The challenge for us is ... to create an Internet presence that is compelling enough for users to make us their homepage, he said.

Murdoch acknowledged that it would require millions of dollars to upgrade News Corp.'s many sites, but passing these costs along to users, in the form of subscription fees, is unrealistic. "I would love it but I don't hold out any hope for people to pay for our Internet sites," he said, adding that advertising revenue would have to support the cyber operations. Among major papers, only The Wall Street Journal currently charges access fees.

Murdoch also said he was unlikely to purchase additional papers until Manhattan-based News Corp. develops a successful Internet strategy.

Murdoch urged the American Society of Newspaper Editors' meeting to see the Internet as more than simply a repository for articles and photographs from that day's print edition. He said 18- to 34-year-olds, who are deserting papers in droves, expect stories to be updated frequently and to explain the impact on their lives. They want commentary and the opportunity to discuss news coverage with editors and reporters.

In addition, Murdoch said Internet diarists or bloggers should be invited to join news sites, which heretofore have been the domain of journalists. Seeing the skeptical reaction of some in the audience of about 350 people, Murdoch said the inclusion of bloggers would "broaden our coverage of the news and deepen the relationship with our community."

A check of the Post's site Wednesday found that it has little additional content beyond stories from the print edition. When asked about future plans for the site, Murdoch declined to provide details. "I want to give them (readers) a lot more and then we will get them in," he said in a brief interview.

Silicone implants backed by FDA panel

By Marc Kaufman
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON–A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel recommended Wednesday that silicone gel implants made by Mentor Corp. be allowed back on the market for wider use–a surprise decision that came a day after the same panel rejected the application of a rival company.

The panel voted 7 to 2 in favor of lifting the 13-year-old partial ban on the controversial implants, but it also recommended that the company be required to meet nine tough conditions.

Wednesday's vote, coming after the same panel rejected the application of Inamed Corp. by a 5 to 4 vote, gives the FDA a mixed recommendation as it grapples with the future of the devices, used for breast enlargement and reconstructive surgery. In 2003, the agency rejected an earlier advisory panel's recommendation to allow general use of silicone gel implants, and it could now decide to approve one company's device, both companies' devices or none.

Mentor officials were delighted by the panel vote.

"We're very gratified that the panel came to the decision they did and hopeful the agency will focus on the same things–the quality of our science and the quality of our data on safety and efficacy," said Joshua Levine, president and CEO of California-based Mentor.

"I think the panel concluded that not all breast implants are created equally and not all test methods are created equally," Levine said.

In explaining their decision, several panel members said they were more impressed by Mentor's data on how and why implants rupture and by the lower rupture rate of its implants. While Inamed reported a yearly rupture rate of about 1.4 percent, the yearly Mentor rate was 0.2 percent–a figure that had been questioned by FDA reviewers.

The panel decision was sharply questioned by Inamed officials, who had been criticized the day before for not having sufficiently long-term data.

"I am stunned by a bizarre and inexplicable decision by some panelists, who yesterday were demanding long-term data and today accepted shorter-term data," Dan Cohen, Inamed's vice president for global, corporate and government affairs, told Bloomberg News after the meeting in Gaithersburg, Md. "They had partial three-year data, and we have four-year data. Our rates are similar."

About 260,000 American women had their breasts enlarged with implants last year, and an additional 60,000 had received them after surgery for breast cancer. Because of health concerns, the FDA in recent years has allowed silicone gel implants to be used only in women who had mastectomies and in some who take part in clinical trials; all others received implants filled with a saline solution. Many women say the silicone gel looks and feels more natural, and it is widely used in other parts of the world.

The panel's decision was also criticized by some public interest groups that have long argued that the potential dangers of silicone gel implants remain insufficiently studied.

"I think this was a triumph of wishful thinking which overruled the lack of science," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families. "Because of all the conditions, it's far from a done deal regarding the FDA. It's not helpful to women to have a product approved on the basis of two years of safety data."

Among the conditions recommended by the panel are that the company allow its devices to be implanted only by certified plastic surgeons who have worked with the devices before; that a major study of the implants be continued until the devices have been in use for 10 years; and that the implants be subjected to another FDA review in five years.

Laurie Casas, a plastic surgeon and spokeswoman for the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, said that her organization would be working with plastic surgeons to set up a new certification program.

"We'll be working with the manufacturer and the FDA to fulfill whatever the agency requires to allow women to finally have a choice," she said. "We're very, very happy about this. Our hands have been tied for so long."

The FDA has 90 days to make a decision about the implants.

Christians increasingly abandon iconic town

By Ken Ellingwood
Los Angeles Times

BETHLEHEM, West Bank – From an office near the traditional birthplace of Christ, Mayor Hanna Nasser frets about the prospects for Christians in his slice of the Holy Land.

The outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians more than four years ago has accelerated emigration by Palestinian Christians that began years earlier.

Researchers and officials say 3,000 Christians have left the Bethlehem area since 2000, heading for the United States, Australia and Latin America as the local economy fell victim to fighting, Israeli roadblocks and other restrictions, including a new barrier separating Bethlehem from Jerusalem.

Over the past decade, the Palestinian Christian population in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip has declined about 10 percent, leaving about 45,000 remaining, said Bernard Sabella, a Bethlehem University sociologist who studies the issue.

Bethlehem's crucial tourism industry has been hit hard, forcing residents to look for work elsewhere. The 120,000 or so tourists who visited Bethlehem last year – mostly in organized groups – represent barely a tenth of the number before 2000, Nasser said.

Bethlehem witnessed fierce fighting in 2002 between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants, some of whom took cover for weeks inside the Church of the Nativity, built on the site where tradition says Christ was born.

Nasser, 68, who is Catholic and displays a photograph of himself shaking hands with Pope John Paul II, gestured toward the church and considered a gloomy future for Palestinian Christians, most of whom are Greek Orthodox.

"I'm afraid we'll come and see nothing but stones here – the stones of the churches, but no people," Nasser said.

Christians face serious challenges throughout the Middle East, experts say, including harassment, their relatively low birthrates and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Guy Bechor, a Middle East specialist at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, said the late pope bears some blame by not acting forcefully in behalf of the Christian communities in the Arab world.

"The Vatican was perhaps the only element that could have united the Christian interests in the Middle East, but (it) just ... abandoned its flock," Bechor wrote recently in the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot.

Sabella said, though, that political and economic upheaval, rather than religious differences, were chiefly responsible for driving away Christians, who often are better educated and more affluent than other Arabs.

"Turbulent times – these are pushing people out," he said. "It's not religion."

About 4,500 Muslims also have left Bethlehem in recent years, for example, but their rate of departure has not been as high as Christians'.

According to Nasser, Bethlehem was more than 90 percent Christian in 1948, when Israel's war of independence made refugees of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom resettled in camps here.

The influx reduced the share of Christians in Bethlehem, and by some estimates, they now account for less than a quarter of Bethlehem's population of 30,000.

Many Palestinian Christians have ties abroad, and most people can name one or more relatives who have left. Those who stay see few good prospects.

Samar Hanna, a college student from neighboring Beit Jala, said her brother recently moved to Honduras to join relatives who abandoned the West Bank years earlier.

"There was no job opportunity for him. He has a degree in accounting, but he was teaching driving," said Hanna, who is Greek Orthodox and will soon graduate from Bethlehem University. "If he doesn't leave to start his future when he's 26, when will he do it?"

Hanna, 21, is to receive a degree in hotel management. Although tourism has begun to creep back in recent months, her fortunes may hinge on a more robust recovery.

"If tourism becomes better, I will stay – for sure," she said, sitting with friends in the school's cafeteria on a recent afternoon.

Residents say the answer to the slow disappearance of Christians in Bethlehem is peace with Israel, and an end to the barriers and travel restrictions that Israel says are necessary to keep out suicide bombers.

Ibrahim Baboun, a Christian smoking outside his cousin's souvenir shop along Manger Square, said he has an aunt in San Francisco and other relatives in El Salvador and Germany. He left for Italy more than a year and a half ago to study, but came back because he didn't like it there.

Baboun, 20, said he plans to stay, even though life in Bethlehem is hard.

"My grandfather, my father – we lived here and we want to stay here forever," he said. "It's our land."

Poetry Slam!

Wednesday, April 20th @ 7:00 p.m.
Ely Main Lounge

Bring 3 - 4 poems 3 minutes or less in length each to read in competition against your classmates OR
Just come to cheer on the poets in this high-energy event.

THE RULES:
- Poets will face off in pairs, reading 1 poem per round.
- Each performance most be no longer than 3 minutes, including any introductory remarks. This is strictly enforced.
- Performances will be judged on a scale of 0.0 - 10.0.
- The winner of each round will advance to the next round.
- The last 2 poets will showdown to determine the winner.
- Game faces required.

Bring your friends to cheer you on and razz the competition!

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the Letters to the Editor in regards to the opinion column I wrote for the paper on 3/28. First of all, I am honored that the entire section of Letters to the Editor were about my first-ever column. Even more flattering is that they were written by Jack Shea, for whom I have nothing but respect, as well as a response written by four PhD's. The other day a classmate told me that her English class was discussing my article; these are all things I never would have foreseen but are all very flattering.

While I intended my article to be negative and blunt, I never meant for it to be mean or viewed as an attack. I found it to be a bit harsh, but constructive, but I am also incredibly biased. I want to apologize to anyone who took it the wrong way or was injured by it.

It was said that my article was an abuse of public speech; I was voicing my opinion about an on-campus event in the opinion section of the Campus Voice; that is a perfectly appropriate forum for what I had to say.

My credibility was attacked, and my article was called "shoddy journalism." I am a just mediocre student at an average school writing for a campus newspaper. I have no credibility. I was printed in the opinion section; opinion columns are not journalistic, they are just the opinions of the author.

Eve Ensler wrote, as was cited last week, that the monologues "rely on good old-fashioned story telling." My point is that reading a monologue with your nose in a book, hair in your expressionless face in a mumbling monotone is not good story telling. Some of the cast members clearly put in a lot time and really thought about what they were saying. Jolene Wagner, Laura Maloni and Cassie Schutt should be applauded for their hard work. Unfortunately the rest of the cast let them down by not doing their homework, by not thinking about what they were saying ahead of time or even being familiar with their lines. Professor Shea mentioned the courage it takes to walk onto a stage and that no critic should take that lightly. I agree. It takes a brave person to get up there. But taking that risk means that you have to be prepared for criticism. And if you want your audience and critics to take you seriously, you need to show that you've done the same with your work. While I respect the fact that no willing participant is turned away from this project, the work may have suffered as a result.

Which brings me to my biggest problem with the reading. I felt like the cast did not take it seriously, and failed to think about their words prior to reading them before an audience. There are some very funny parts to *The Vagina Monologues*. No one is arguing that. "My Angry Vagina" is one of the funniest things I have ever heard; it was originally written for Whoppi Goldberg. There are also some tragic and horrible parts that will make you cry. But it is not just funny and tragic, black and white; there is a considerable amount of grey and the real strength lies in the grey areas, parts that are certainly not funny, but not teary either. "Hair" and "The Flood" are great examples. I took issue with the readings lacking grey. Without the middle of the road stuff it makes some of the transitions too sharp.

Along those same lines, my other problem with the humor was the inability of the readers to differentiate between funny and serious. When talking about sex, sexuality and sexual organs it is easy to get a laugh, it's all in the tone. "Why the flashlight all up there like Nancy Drew working against gravity?"–funny. A 72-year-old woman who had never had an orgasm taking "over an hour, because she was arthritic... When she finally found her clitoris, she said she cried."--not funny. Yet when Dr. Stassinos delivered that line she did so with a big smile on her face and a little giggle. While I am sure that she did not find this amusing, that is how it came across. Moments like that made me feel your rendition was mean spirited, it was upsetting and I thought it to be hurtful to the cause. Clearly the message was lost on the audience; why else would anyone have the audacity to demean cast members by whistling at them as they walked on stage? Why was the audience so uncomfortable with the word cunt?

The production had an incredible amount of potential, WSC has a phenomenal Theater/English department, four PhD's working with a cast on one of the most important dramatic works there is. Instead what was presented was under-rehearsed, underthought and counterproductive.

I now see how my article could have been seen as hurtful. Believe it or not, the V-Day cause is one that has become very important to me over the past few years. I was truly upset by this presentation of the Monologues, and as a result my message was buried by my passionate response. I sincerely apologize to anyone whose feelings were hurt by my article.

- Jeff Hodder

Editorial - We don't need no stinkin' cuts

The Massachusetts House budget came out on March 13, and in it public higher institutions across Massachusetts saw approximately a 7 percent increase in funds from the governor.

This increase is encouraging but not enough. To get anywhere near the levels of state funding Westfield State College saw not too many years ago, it will take a lot of noise from current students and alumni.

The funds the schools are asking for are crucial to keeping up the quality of Massachusetts' higher education.

These funds will go toward recruiting faculty and making much needed improvements to many buildings on campuses across the state.

To secure these funds it's vital that as many people as possible contact your local senator either by writing a letter, an e-mail, or by making a phone call asking them to support the recommendations made by the senate task force report and to invest in the future of Massachusetts.

Though it may be too late to persuade state representatives its not too late to bend the ear of a few state senators.

To bump up the projected 7 percent increase it's crucial for anyone with a stake in higher education to call, write, e-mail or visit with their senator. Seven percent isn't much, but if increasing the budget becomes a habit of the house and senate then public higher education in Massachusetts can begin to approach what it once was.

In addition to calling your own senator you may want to give a call to Senator Michael Knapik, the senator for Westfield. You can reach him at (413) 562-6454.

Call up Westfield state representative Don Humason and tell him to support public higher education, it might be helpful to remind him that he graduated from Westfield State College (B.S. Criminal Justice, 1989). He can be reached at 413-568-1366.

To find your senator visit www.mass.gov.

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Let 'em all eat cake ... or pie

"And Justice For All"
By Ashley Speicher
Voice Columnist

Conservative speakers have pie all over their faces, literally. There has been a recent "movement" of sorts on college campuses across the country to hurl food products and whatever else college kids can get their hands on at conservative speakers visiting their school. It seems that some liberal protesters decided that rather than simply arguing or asking thoughtful and provoking questions towards their ideological nemesis, they would attack them with pies, salad dressing, and even a shoe.

It all began last October when Ann Coulter, a well known conservative writer whose main objective is to bash liberals, was speaking at the University of Arizona.

Two students ran into the auditorium when Coulter was taking questions from the audience and attempted to throw pies at the speaker. They missed their target, and Coulter quickly brushed off the incident, saying "From that far away they can't even hit me?" The two students were quickly apprehended by the cops and are now being charged with two misdemeanors and one felony count for damage to the school's property. The men started their own web-site, appropriately titled "Al Picda" and declared a "global pastry uprising" against the conservatives. Two other web-sites followed, the Biotic Baking Brigade and the Mad Anarchists' Baker's league. Along with promoting its primary mission of tossing bakery products at conservatives, saying "pie is funny- war is not," Al Pieda is begging its online surfers to donate money to help support the student's legal defense since they are now facing jail time and large fines.

"The two men started their own web-site, appropriately titled 'Al Pieda' and declared a 'global pastry uprising' against the conservatives."

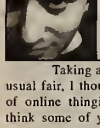
Then, in February of this year, during a debate with now-DNC chair Howard Dean, former Pentagon advisor Richard Perle was beginning to speak his thoughts on the current war in Iraq when a protester threw his shoe at Perle and screamed "Liar! Liar!"

The debate was held by Pacific University and the student was quickly whisked away by security. The event continued on without any further interruptions.

Next, William Kristol was hit square in the face with a pie during his discussion of U.S. foreign policy at Earlham College in Indiana. Days later, Pat Buchanan was doused in salad dressing in Michigan while the protester screamed "Stop the bigotry!" I guess this protester didn't feeling like baking. Finally, a little over a week ago, conservative speaker David Horowitz was also a victim to a pie to the face while giving a lecture at Butler University.

The real loss in this situation is that good, edible food products are being wasted on conservative speakers, and these actions are just giving them more ammo in their arguments against the "wacko" liberals. Ann Coulter and company may deserve a pie in the face, but it's really not accomplishing anything in the end. Although they may claim that pie is funny, it's a violent act that is not promoting any good cause. They are resorting to the same violence that their opponents devotedly promote. So let's put down the pies and other bakery products and instead challenge the conservatives on an intellectual level. That would be a real victory.

A few things I like



"Extraneous"
By Ben Gaines
Voice Columnist

Taking a small break from my usual fair, I thought I'd include a list of online thingies that I enjoy, and think some of you might enjoy too. Some are blogs/news sites, others are webcomics. You should check them out.

The Rude Pundit (http://rudepundit.blogspot.com): An angry, foul-mouthed liberal with a gift for unsettling-yet-astute sexual metaphors, the Rude One obfuscates his generally valid points behind an entertaining wall of obscene hostility. He includes in-text links to legit articles that back up his points, which I appreciate.

Boy on a Stick and Slither (http://www.boasas.com): A little bit creepy and surreal because it's so innocent, BOASAS features a Pez dispenser-like protagonist and a cynical snake name Slither. And a presidential candidate named Frickles Mudcat, who I'd totally vote for if he wasn't a catfish (I'm not prejudiced, but they just can't do the job).

The Smirking Chimp (http://www.smirkingchimp.com): This site is a collection of news articles, mostly reprinted from other news sources. Some are originals, though. Most are opinion columns, although often researched and including hard-news elements. It's unapologetically anti-Bush and anti-Republican (though not particularly in favor of any other single party), and very up-front about it. The honesty in saying "We pick a side. We're honest, but we're partial" is very refreshing.

The Site Map (http://sitemap.keenspace.com): This is a strange little eclectic comic that details a moral play reminiscent of John Skot's *Everyman*. At times a little preachy on obvious moral lessons, but it has a rebellious slant I find interesting. The artwork is nice, and has matured a great deal since the story began. The obscurity of some of the religious references is simply dizzying, as well.

The Parking Lot is Full (http://plif.com): The comic ended in 2002 but the archives of 1993-2002 are still up and available. It's like the Far Side, if Jefrey Dhalmer wrote it.

Well, that's all for this week.

Enjoy.

Interested in reviewing any shows? The Voice could send you for free! Contact us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com for more details!

What the hell was the Vatican thinking?

"To The Point"
By Haley Paton
Voice Columnist

As you may have heard, Cardinal Bernard Law was chosen to lead the Pope's funeral mass. What a ******* brilliant idea! Let's have the cardinal at the center of a huge pedophile sex scandal give the pope his farewell!

Hey, why the hell not? God hates the sin but loves the sinner, right? Why should we let a little thing like shuffling child-molesting creeps in sheep's, excuse me, shepherd's, clothing from congregation to congregation of unknowing, trusting, church-going families so that they can traumatize as many children as they can. Go through the ceremonies, repent and everything is cool in the eyes of the big guy. Good job, Vatican.

Now, I have nothing against Catholics. Life is tough and anything that brings people hope is cool with me. But the Vatican is another issue entirely. I don't care who the next Pope is and I am not in mourning that Pope John Paul II is no longer with us, he was old, it was just his time, but hey, if he brought some light into people's lives, that's great.

What I can't stand is that all these religious men, this Holy city, has absolutely nothing to do with God or Jesus whatsoever. That's right, you heard me. Nothing. Ab-so-lutely nothing. I wasn't raised in a religious family, but I do know enough about organized religion to know that Jesus was poor. And where did the Pope live? A palace. Why not turn the Vatican into a refuge for the poor? Spend all that money on something worthwhile instead of a bunch of out-of-touch old men? I think that would be more in the spirit of Jesus' teachings, don't you?

Whether he was the savior or not, whether he even existed or not, because there is some debate that there is no record of his crucifixion and supposedly the Romans kept incredibly good records, the guy had some good ideas. Love thy neighbor and stuff. Sounds good, right? I think that since the middle ages at least the church hierarchy has been more about power and money than faith and goodwill. And that's sad. This last development just seems to be the icing on the cake.

The other day I read an article about this, if you're wondering what set me off. And you know what was also reported? Some of the other cardinals didn't attend out of protest---cool. But a few didn't attend because they didn't think they had to go and they didn't feel like it. Um, I'm sorry, isn't the pope the closest thing to God in their eyes? The guy friggin' died. Go to the guy's damn funeral, for Christ's sake! Shows how much they care about their supposed faith.

I've got one last thing to say about the Pope. Like I said, I've got nothing against the guy, may he rest in peace, but in an article that I read recently he was quoted saying something like, "church followers can't be a group of free thinkers." Well, frankly, that's not a world I'd ever want to live in.

Move over MySpace, there's a new community in town

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

It seemed like any other typical weekday. My alarm began its incessant beeping at exactly 9:45 a.m. I groggily rolled out of bed and walked the five steps to my incredibly unnecessary, over-sized leather computer chair. I plopped myself down lazily and popped the top of my lap-top. After checking to see if any of my AIM buddies had responded to my clever away message, I immediately began clicking through my daily routine.

Dragging my mouse across my bookmark bar, I began at Myspace.com. After typing in my secret, super protective password, I reached my homepage and was delighted to find out that I had three new friend requests and one message. I eagerly clicked on the link to see who it was that wanted to befriend me so desperately and was disappointed to find two large-breasted blondes looking to chat it up with a cute brunette and a thirty-five year old man from my home town on a quest to meet some decent women.

After little deliberation I accepted all three.

I checked my profile to see if any new comments awaited me and after responding on my friends page to her comment on how insanely wasted our friend's, ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend was at the party the night before, I added a new blog and continued on my internet journey.

I quickly checked my hotmail account, left the daily update from my mom unanswered, and moved on to something more exciting, something a little more dramatic.

It was time to check my livejournal.

Though I hadn't updated my journal in over three months, it was still completely necessary to check my friends page to see if anyone had anything ridiculously dramatic to report. I skimmed down the page, weeding out the boring from the worth-while, the good friends from the random acquaintances. Today it all looked the same, "I'm so stressed out, three tests in one week..." followed closely by an entry with the subject "Fill this out and paste it in your own LJ." Everyday it was all the same, meaningless quizzes, surveys, pictures, complaints, unimportant information about one's life that no one actually cares about, WSC gets Facebook, a list of everyone's fall semester courses...WAIT! FACEBOOK!?

I quickly scrolled back to the tiny entry that would have escaped my eye had it not been for the size 18, bolded, underlined font. There, right in front of me, were the words I had waited so long to see. "WSC is finally on The Facebook! YAY!"

Could it be true? Was I finally given the opportunity to fill out a new profile, get new friends and finally get in on this "poking" that all my high school buddies were raving about? I had to find out. Excitedly, I typed in the web address and clicked on the link that led to a list of all involved colleges. There it was. Westfield State College.

"YES!" I said out-loud, waking my non-morning friendly roommate. "WAKE UP! WE HAVE FACEBOOK!"

It was only a matter of minutes before both my equally ecstatic roommate and I were typing rapidly on our laptops, eager to get registered as soon as possible and instant messaging all of our buddies so we could all be friends on Facebook.

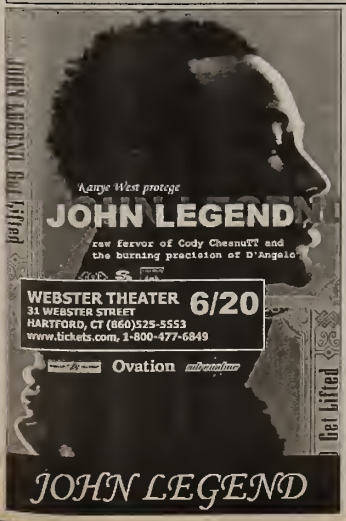
Everything was happening so quickly that when I finally looked at the clock I realized I was late for class. Though I seriously debated whether or not I should remain planted in my seat so I could take the appropriate time needed to properly fill in my favorite movies, books and music, I remembered I had a quiz and it would be very hazardous to my grade to miss it. I reluctantly dragged myself to three classes, dreaming only of returning to The Facebook when I got back to my room.

Walking briskly back to my dorm, Facebook was everywhere. Students huddled in small packs murmuring excitedly about how we've waited so long and how much we've been missing out. By the time I got back to my room and signed back on, I had seventeen friend requests.

Though the excitement has died down a bit since that fateful day when Westfield State got Facebook, my heart still palpitates every time I sign on and see that I've been poked or requested. I'm sure that someday another hot new internet community will take over, replacing our beloved new friend, but until that time...

Facebook me.

New Shows Announced at The Webster Theater
Visit them online at www.webstertheater.com



Friday, April 29th
Sevendust, Skindred
7pm, $21 adv

Sunday, May 1st
Copeland / Anberlin
Paramore
6 pm, $10 adv

Friday, May 6th
Alternative Press & Vans Present:
Straylight Run, Minus The Bear, The Honorary Title, Gratitude, Spitalfield

Friday, May 13th
Lez Zeppelin
tribute to Led Zeppelin
6 pm, $10 adv

Saturday, May 14th
Bayside, Lost City Angels
6 pm, $10 adv

Thursday, June 2nd
Streetlight Manifesto
Gym Class Heros
Whole Wheat Bread
7pm, $10 adv

Friday, June 3rd
Foreigner
8pm, $29.50 adv

Thursday, July 21st
Soilent Green
Perfect Murder
Into the Moat
Watch Them Die
6pm, $13.50 adv

Arts & Entertainment

The hangover we didn't deserve

BY MATTHEW BERNAT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mention the band Bowling for Soup (BFS) to an average college student you'll be met with laughs of derision. I too smirked at the very thought of interviewing the band that is best known for riding the current wave of 80's nostalgia and covering the Gilligan's Island theme song for a TBS reality show of the same name. Not a fan? Not surprising. I wasn't either but I had this urge to discover what made this seemingly bland, soulless, faux punk rock band tick. The answers: gallons of Miller Lite and a genuine sense of fun. I had no choice but to leave the interview with a certain amount of respect for these beer-swilling Texans, not for their music, but for their personalities.

BFS is touring behind their fourth studio produced album "A Hangover You Don't Deserve" and played at the Webster Theater in Hartford on April 10 with openers MC Lars, The Riddlin Kids and American Hi-Fi . The ever-intrepid voice photographer Cliff Ashbrook and I found ourselves asking for directions on a corner Kwikee Mart in south Hartford before the show because we were lost.

As we drove away it became clear to me that this wasn't the sort of neighborhood that would house a rock venue.

Pimped out Acura's and bling outnumbered polo shirts and khakis at least five to one.

Then there it was, a line of people in Bowling for Soup merchandise. It was 5 p.m., 2 hours before the doors opened and another 5 hours before BFS actually took the stage.

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook
Chris, from Bowling for Soup.

We met Sean Baggins the tour manager just outside their tour bus. He wore shorts that exposed the tattoos that ran down the back of his calves and took us into the theater through a side door.

"Once the band finishes up the sound check there's a record label meet and greet and then you guys can do the interview," Sean said.

Sitting in the dark of the empty theater I noticed the fans for the meet and greet were all girls, ranging in age from 10-16 years old with their parents.

I asked Cliff about this and he said it was the same thing at the Taking Back Sunday concert he attended a few months ago.

"We have to find out why this is. What if I ask them, "why all of your fans 12 year old girls?"

"Matt, please don't piss them off."

Cliff had a point. I'd save that one for last.

The band was gracious and patient for the fans as they posed for pictures and held up CD's and posters for them to sign. Their parents waited not too far away; some of the moms even sported their own BFS shirts.

The fans filed out and Sean led us to an alley that bordered the adjacent building, he took a quick right down some stairs and into the dressing rooms.

There was a sparse dirty hallway with some beat up couches and bizarre graffiti, no windows. BFS still have a few dues to pay before becoming rock royalty.

Sean had us take a seat and Chris (guitar), Erik (bass) and Gary (drums) sat on the couch opposite us. Jaret (lead vocals, guitar) hadn't come in yet but we began the interview anyways.

How are you guys liking Hartford?

Erik: Hartford has always been awesome to us. Our first show here was a radio festival, 4 or 5 years ago. The first show we played here I was naked onstage in front of 10,000 people.

How did you manage that?

We were doing a show with Dynamite Hack and everybody went onstage in their underwear and I didn't have underwear on at the time I went out in a towel wrapped around my waist and uh, just as were finishing our little stage prank their bass player reaches over and yanks the towel off of me. At that point, do you, cover your shit up and run off like your fucking scared or do yeo just put your fucking rock fist in the air (makes devil horns with right hand) and that's what I did.

-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook
The Bowling For Soup Rock Hand.

Do you have any pre-show rituals?

Erik: we hang out and drink way too much beer. That's basically it.

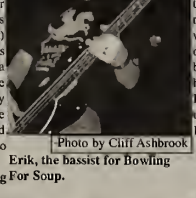
Gary: We just hang out drink beer and shoot the shit with each other.

(At this point Jaret walks into the room.)

Jaret: I hate one ply toilet paper. It just rubs the shit out of your ass. You guys want to hear a funny story that happened today.

Erik: yeah sure,

Jaret: So I come in this morning to take a poop and I have a Sprite and I sit down to poop and I set the drink down on the toilet paper dispenser and I was sitting down like this (motions as though he's on a toilet) and all of a sudden Poosh! (there is laughter as he motions as if the soda fell into his pants). It's sitting there pouring out. That's, that's a shitty fucking feeling. So the Dickies are waterproof, so I just got up wiped 'em off but my underwear was so fucking sticky. (More laughter).



-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook
Erik, the bassist for Bowling

Do you plan on touring For Soup. this summer?

Jaret: This summer were doing a co-headlining tour with Reel Big Fish so were trying to do the opposite of the warped tour, starting at the other end of the country and were going to avoid it as much as we can because its so expensive for kids to go to that show.

Erik, you said you were most inspired by Johnny Cash? Why is that?

Erik: Johnny Cash was the first fucking punk if you ask me. He never did it by any other way, he didn't follow the rules of Nashville and he was an outsider for a long time.

Jaret: His influence probably comes across in the music more than you think though. The way he tells story and such. Like very similar, you can totally tell that lyrically were influenced by country just because of were we live. (Texas)

Erik: We can't get away from it.

Jaret: If there weren't country, construction workers wouldn't have anything to listen to.

Who did you end up sitting next to at the Grammy's (BFS was nominated for their song "Girl All the Bad Guys Want" in 2003)

Erik: behind us were Tina McBride and her husband. Jimmy Fallon and his date and beside us was the hot girl from the Soprano's.

Jaret: We had a pretty big row…behind us was Godsmack and Evander Holyfield who was two rows up. Norah Jones was near there.

It wasn't just musicians?

Jaret: People are always like what was the weirdest aspect of the Grammy's? You expect to see Bonnie Rait…It's the people outside the music industry that you see, all the actors and T.V. personalities and sports people and stuff. We ran into Tom Arnold in the hall yelling because he couldn't get a beer (laughs). Kevin James was walking around, Michael J. Fox. Dustin Hoffman.

Chris: Got our picture with Robin Williams. He was cool.

Erik: He was either drunk or really tired.

Jaret: We had on these bluc tuxedos and he said, "thank god for the tuxedo rental industry."

What was your worst drinking experience?

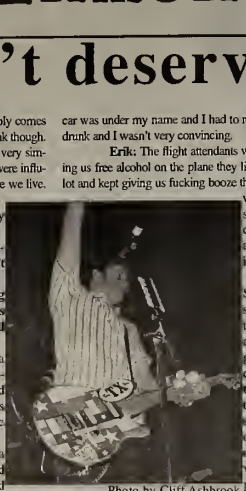
Erik: Worst drinking experience? They're all beautiful.

Gary: When I was younger we were playing drinking games and I ended up drinking an entire bottle of gin over like 30 minutes. I was just not winning at this game, or maybe I was because I was getting hammered but it was December and I ended up going to this dudes backyard and throwing up for like three hours in a short sleeve shirt. I just couldn't move, it was like, 30 degrees or something.

Erik: Right after I separated from my first wife we went down to see my friends of mine play and there was this big party afterward. He said I got a present for ya and brought me a bottle of thunderbird that had a handle on it, like a jug of thunderbird and before I knew it I drank the whole thing…we were in this nasty ass falling down house just puking all over the place … still that's pretty awesome.

Jaret: I got really fucked up on a trip we had to Salt Lake City once, and (laughter) the car was under my name and I had to rent a car drunk and I wasn't very convincing.

Erik: The flight attendants were giving us free alcohol on the plane they liked us a lot and kept giving us fucking booze the whole way just sitting down and talking.



-Photo by Cliff Ashbrook
Jaret, guitarist for Bowling For Soup.

Jaret: So we go straight to the bar and we got so drunk in the bar that I was standing on the stairwell with my pants down around my ankles telling everyone that they can go fuck themselves and the next thing I know I wake up in Utah and there's fucking snow on the ground and I wake up on the van…I didn't know where I was.

Chris: I got a good one. It was my 30th birthday. After drinking half a bottle of Jack I funneled 5 beers at once. I thought I was going to die there was so much pressure on my stomach. I thought, has my blood stopped flowing? 5 minutes later I did three more.

Erik: he was drunk for 2 week

How do you measure the success of an album you put out?

Jaret: We set out to make the record that we feel represents our band. We write songs that sound like us, you know? That's pretty much what we do. Its not rocket science, we didn't set out to reinvent ourselves musically do this and this, we just want to put out songs that make people smile.

Erik: Yeah, to me this album is the best we've done.

Jaret: It's the best album ever.

Erik: Maybe not that good.

Chris: I dunno, I think it is

Jaret: We always, people always ask if we have all this pressure to try and top ourselves we had a meeting over some freakin' Cajun food and we…

Chris: We totally made a pact with the devil.

Jaret: (sings) Strike a deal with the devil

Chris: We called it off because the devil's songs suck.

Jaret: Yeah the devil could never write love songs.

What do you want your audience to leave with at the end of a show?

Jaret: A smile.

Chris: Definitely not herpes. Oh hey did you here about Michael Vick. His, uh, ex girlfriend is suing him because he gave her herpes. He not only gave her herpes he didn't tell her he had herpes. If you have an S.T.D. and didn't tell 'em you should be responsible.

BFS, continued on page 12.

A concert to Vai for

By Jon Mitchell
Special to The Voice

The air was cold in Hartford the night of March 25, but inside the Webster Theater, the atmosphere was out of this world. If anything, the mood was incendiary. Myself, alongside Ben Pegg, my partner in shred, were about to witness a show of extreme proportions. Little did we know that chaos would soon fill the air in thirty-second-note triplets screaming from the fingers of one of the most technically proficient instrumental guitarists to ever sling an axe; we were about to witness Steve Vai.

Before divulging into the concert itself, we would just like to recap a few of the night's events prior to the start of the show. As previously stated, we were going to see Steve Vai and his band, the Breed, on tour supporting Vai's latest recording, "Real Illusions: Reflections." Outside the Webster, a cacophony of noise erupted from the hundreds of fans waiting in line to get out of the cold and into the warmth of the theater. A variety of fans, young and old, male and female, each spoke in excitement about the show to come.

"This is my second time seeing him live," one kid, Eric, told me. It turns out he attended the same show as me, the previous G3 tour last year, when it stopped in Boston. Alongside Joe Satriani and Yngwie Malmsteen, both amazing players in their own right, Vai toured around the world, and Eric was pleased to be able to see him once again.

"This night is going to be amazing. I can already feel it." He was right. Right then, the door to Vai's tour bus opened, and a tall man dressed in a long, black leather trench coat emerged. It was Vai himself, and he was heading into the venue. Not a usual entrance for a rock show, but then again, this was no ordinary rock show.

Inside the theater, the mood was a little hairy. This is where it gets a little confusing. Due to a misunderstanding, Ben and I did not receive the proper photo passes needed to get access to the photo area. This is a gray area, because, we were under the assumption that we would have the tickets and photo passes required to take the desired photos of the show, and the security in charge of said photo area explained that we had the wrong passes, denying us access to the area. This was the entire purpose of our trip. Either way, we received passes that had the word "VIP" circled, not "Photo." What's the big deal? Why would we be disappointed for getting backstage passes for free? Well, we weren't, really. But we had a job to do, and we needed the correct passes to do said job.

Perhaps it's just a misunderstanding.

After settling with the fact that we could not acquire access to the photo area, we did what came naturally: we pushed our way to the front row. This way, we assumed, we could hold our digital cameras in the air and pray that a few pictures would come out. This is where we met more fans excited to see Vai. In fact, they turned out to be friends with Tony MacAlpine, back-up guitarist for Vai's band and a native of Springfield. Surprisingly, after a delightful conversation with them about the shared experiences that brought them to Vai's music, they wouldn't let us into their row. Okay, we were two rows from the stage with no passes and a whole bunch of people behind us wanting our spots. We decided it was the best time for the show to start. We waited through the sound-check, for the techs do get off the stage, the key sign that a show will begin. Then, as the lights dimmed and the smoke machines started, a man I could have sworn was Bret Michaels from Poison came onstage bearing an unusual instrument of choice, the electric Dobro.

This was Eric Sardinas, Vai's opening act for the "Real Illusions: Reflections" tour. His set was a perfect start for the night, not because he blew the pants off of anyone with his virtuosity, necessarily, but because his style of music is blues slide guitar. This is a definite contrast to Vai's more than heavenly take on rock/metal/fusion. But there's the rub. It fit perfectly because of the distinct contrast. Sardinas is a blues guitar virtuoso, and like many instrumental guitarists of the day, is signed to Favored Nations, Vai's own recording label. His style, like Vai's, is so over the top that you had to pay attention. At one point, Sardinas jumped into the crowd and jammed for a full six minutes on one tune, soloing and riffing while hundreds of onlookers just gawked. If that wasn't enough, during his last song, he throws off his slide, and picks up a bottle of Rolling Rock, and uses it as an impromptu slide while taking a few healthy sips of the suds. It was like Stevie Ray Vaughan, Super Dave, and the Marlboro Man were thrown into a cement mixer.

After his set, which ran about 45-50 minutes, we waited for Vai. We saw guitar techs messing with amps, making last minute tuning changes, effects pedals being stuck to the floor. Suddenly, the lights dimmed; it was time for the Breed. The Breed is a virtual super-group of five technically inclined musicians, critically acclaimed members of many different bands that provide the perfect complement to Vai's sound. As previously stated, Tony MacAlpine, who is a veteran of such bands as, plays keyboards and guitar. Dave Weiner, fresh out of the GIT (Guitar Institute) in Los Angeles, plays backup guitar and sitar. Jeremy Colson, a young and wild tattooed man is on drums. Billy Sheehan, ex-member of Mr. Big, is the astounding bassist finishing off what is the Breed. Vai's backup band isn't so much a group of hired musicians as it is an extended family. When Vai came out wearing his long black trench coat and a double-necked Ibanez JEM and started with the eight finger ostinato tapping licks, we knew it was going to be a good night.

Vai's set started with a whole slew of new songs offhis latest disc, "Real Illusions: Reflections." The songs flowed together, one by one, acting as if background music to some weird soundtrack to space and robots.

Going to a show to see a group of virtuosos definitely should come with the caveat that some showboating will be involved. Steve jumped behind Billy, reached around and started playing bass while Sheehan pretended to be annoyed. They went back and forth; hitting each other's instruments like it was a game of tag.

The set continued with many Vai favorites such as "The Attitude Song," and "Bad Horsie." Easily my favorite song of the night, "Whispering a Prayer," a masterpiece that Vai wrote about Ireland, extended into an extra three minute solo. One of the last songs played, "I'm the Hell Outta Here" off the soundtrack to the movie PCU, featured MacAlpine and Vai trying to out-solo one another. If that wasn't cool enough, all members of the Breed, along with Vai, stood in a line fretting and playing each other's instruments! It was chaos and anarchy, as well as catharsis. We waited for an encore, and it happened, starting with "Liberty," a tune full of remnants of the "Star Spangled Banner." The night couldn't end without Vai's signature tune, and we weren't disappointed.

"How about one more?" Steve said, as the band broke into "For the Love of God," the night's defining swansong.

After the show, Vai came out front for a quick meet with Ben and I. Apparently, the real "Meet and Greet" happened hours before the show, and he was in a hurry to get to the next night's show in New York. Ben told him he built Steve a gift, a custom made Ibanez JEM guitar, but security wouldn't let him bring it inside.

"Maybe next time," Vai calmly said through a grin.

He walked away and through the doors and all we could do was smile. We had just met the guy who is helping to keep technical guitar playing alive. We were stunned that he was so regular. We had an amazing night, and, ironically ended up with a better picture than we would have got in the photo section.

State of Fear: A novel that left me shaking ... My head

By John Fletcher
Special to The Voice

Michael Crichton is probably one of my favorite contemporary novelists due to his solid story-telling ability coupled with his love of technology. With this enthusiasm, I began reading his latest publication, *State of Fear*, from Harper Collins Publications. A fast read, even at a meaty 603 pages, I anxiously waited time to get back to it whenever I had to put it down. Anyone who has read *Jurassic Park* will feel right at home with Crichton's ability to explain science and technology. Ultimately, though, this work does not compare with the quality of his earlier novels. I found myself viewing it as an attempt to put global warming fanatics in their respective places as opposed to a serious commentary on the commonly held views on the subject.

Now, I know what you are probably thinking -- 'Global warming? How do you write a novel about global warming?' I know - I asked myself the same question. Essentially, Crichton's ploy involves Dr. John Kenner, a paramilitary professor with intensive knowledge of global warming, breaking apart the many pre-conceived notions of Peter Evans, the lawyer of a wealthy environmental benefactor, by quoting scholarly research. In one passage, Kenner explains to Evans, "'The data show that one relatively small area called the Antarctic Peninsula is melting and calving huge icebergs. That's what gets reported year after year. But the continent as a whole is getting colder, and the ice is getting thicker.'" Crichton then cites an article within a footnote, "Antarctic climate cooling and terrestrial ecosystem response" by Doran et al., followed by a summation of what was found: "From 1986 to 2000 central Antarctic valleys cooled .7° C per decade with serious ecosystem damage from cold." Indeed, there is a bibliography accompanying this novel that includes twenty pages of research and notes. The author prefaces it by stating that, "No reader should assume that any author listed below agrees with the views I express in this book. Quite the contrary: many of them disagree strongly." He continues to say that he chose to include these works "to assist those readers who would like to review my thinking and arrive at their own conclusions." Wasn't that nice of him?

The problem, however, with interjecting quote after quote of evidence is that it goes beyond the character's passion and begins to feel as though the author is directly preaching to his audience. (If I wanted to read Crichton preaching, I'd read an essay of his on the subject - if he ever writes such an essay.) Obviously, Mr. Crichton is very passionate about making people aware of the truths and half truths about global warming, and it comes out in his character of Dr. John Kenner - but with too much emphasis. By using such tactics, the character becomes flat and uninteresting and detracts from the growth of the other characters, especially would-be main character, Peter Evans. Towards the introduction of Kenner, when he began to spout and sputter scientific citations, I actually stopped and asked myself, "He's not going to do this the entire time, it he?" Fortunately, no, not the entire amount of Kenner's dialogue attacks rumors head on -- just most of it.

Crichton's latest offering does not limit itself to preaching the he-said-she-said of the global warming world. The author's skill as a storyteller fans out into a peacock's tail that follows the characters around the globe and back. Peter Evans suffers bodily harm in his home in Beverley Hills, acquires frostbite in Antarctica, and tangles with cannibals on the island of Pavutu within the span of this near-epic story. The focus, of course, does not always remain on Evans; but shifts easily onto any of the other cogs that make the tale spin. Characters like George Morton, rich client of Evans', and his assistant Sarah Jones find themselves under the spotlight for a spell. This bouncing about of personas makes determining a figurehead of the novel particularly difficult, especially with the emphasis Crichton places on his mouthpiece, Kenner.

Ultimately, Micbael Crichton's attempt to tackle the mammoth girth of global warming leaves a lukewarm feeling that raises more questions in this lay reader than it tries to answer. Is this the absolute answer to the question (he might say myth) of global warming? Absolutely not. But, is this a fantastically intense and winding tale worthy of James Bond? Yes. So, if techno-babble makes you dizzy, this might not be the best selection for you, but if you are set on reading the author's catalogue or are simply looking for an interesting and entertaining story to delve into for a few nights, Michael Crichton's *State of Fear* is sure to please.

BFS

Continued from page 10

Erik: You should, but the other person should be responsible enough to… (Jaret belches)

Chris: How would they know, sometimes you can't…

Erik: Yeah, you're right.

Jaret: (sings) Strike a deal with the devil!

We were talking before the show, he went to a Taking Back Sunday concert here not too long ago, and we noticed the fans are 10 – 14 year old girls and we just can't figure out why these girls are connecting with this music.

Jaret: Because pop radio has evolved into MTV and these are what those kids are listening to.

And so ended the interview. We walked out with Erik, who was going to have a smoke in the alley. As we walk by American Hi-Fi's dressing room Erik starts to laugh. "Last time we were here Scotter had these hot strippers in there."

"Were you in there with them?"

"No we had a spaghetti fight."

Hours passed, and it came to be about 20 minutes before BFS took the stage. I was standing in the back next to a woman who appeared to be the mother of one of the many tweens running around.

I turned to her and said, "Are you here for Bowling for Soup?"

"What?"

"Are you here to see BFS? Are you a fan?" I asked if her kids were here with her, I hope she didn't think I was an asshole.

"I'm here to see BFS, my friend," she pointed towards the women next her, "is here with her kids." I said I was writing about the concert.

"Oh I like new music, that's why I'm here. You know we were pretty cool back in 1985."

Ah. Now confused more than ever, Cliff and I went to the photo area right in front of the stage. I turned around and it appeared that the entire Mickey Mouse Club had attended the show and was pressed up against the barricade.

I asked one young male fan, "Are you a big fan of BFS?" He answered, "Not really. I like a few songs."

Didn't matter though because BFS came on and played the hell out of "Almost," their new single. Despite the massive amount of beer coursing through their bodies, they sounded tight and together. Everyone in the place was smiling. Hopefully no one had herpes.

Mae finally getting the recognition they deserve

BY EMILY ENGEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Upon walking into the small room in the back of The Webster Theater, I was welcomed into a room of relaxation. Members of Mae were sitting around; guitarist Zach Gehring tuned his guitar while keyboardist Rob Sweitzer checked over the set list. Hand shakes and warm smiles were given, then everyone settled for a little Q&A.

Drummer Jacob Marshall

But before any questions were asked, I noticed towards the back of the wall stood a large container holding soda and water surrounded by ice. This thirsty reporter looked longingly into the container, recalling how much it cost for a bottle of water during a show. Apparently drummer Jacob Marshall noticed.

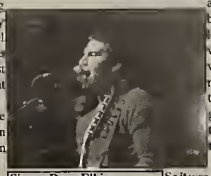
"Seriously, if you want that, just wheel it out to your car," he said laughingly. Needless to say, I grabbed a bottle of water.

Generous and talented. What a combination.

On April 6th, only the second night of performing with The Starting Line and Armor for Sleep, Mae was ready to show off their new songs from their latest album *The Everglow*, as well as delight true fans with older songs off of *Destination: Beautiful*.

After a long while of being virtually ignored by their label Tooth & Nail, Mae was now second to the last band performing that night at The Webster.

But were the struggles of being an unknown band hard on this five-some?


Singer Dave Elkins

It's been a significant amount of time between your two full length albums. *Destination: Beautiful* came out more than two years ago. What were you doing on this break?

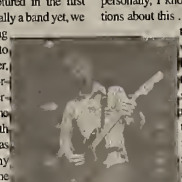
JM: We toured! We definitely didn't have a lot of time … We didn't have a fan base! Like, we started from scratch, so we weren't really a priority at the label at first …

RS: There were only 8,000 units originally shipped at all and were sent to small stores and stuff like that for *Destination: Beautiful*. So we had to pretty much just start from scratch like he said, and we've been touring ever since that time.

JM: Touring that much, you don't have a lot of time to write, so it was kind of like, touring, touring, touring, write for a week, tour, tour, tour, write for another. I think if we had stopped any earlier it wouldn't have made sense to make another record, because there wasn't enough motive to get into it.

Your label mates on Tooth & Nail Records vary in all sorts of genres. Bands like Emery and Underoath seem to have more of a hardcore edge. As compared to *Destination*, the sound has changed. Do you find yourselves being more prone to adding heavier guitar or harder vocals, or being influenced at all?

JM: I wouldn't say because of that as much as because there was like, an energy to our band that wasn't captured in the first record because we weren't really a band yet, we were just kind of a recording project. So as we started to tour, we musically fit together, like, the energy of our performance was noticeably different than the energy on the record and a lot has to do with the way we recorded it. It was just on our own in a little tiny basically almost like a home studio that our bass player Mark [Padgett] has back home [in Virginia Beach, Virginia] and so this time we were fortunate enough to be able to actually track as a band and the level of production quality was substantially better. We were able to capture the moment of us creating music together versus each person going in and playing parts through and then layering on top of each other.


Guitarist Zach Gehring

So it was the difference in production that made it sound heavier?

JM: Yeah, right. You know, people who have seen our live show commented on how much fuller and more energy was in there than what was captured on the record so we wanted to capture that energy and use it this time, and I think it comes across, for lack of better words, "harder," but it wasn't like, a conscious decision to go harder as much as it was to capture what we felt was supposed to be all along.

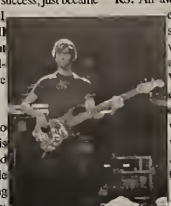
The artwork and overall theme of *The Everglow* is a story book, including an introduction and an Epilogue. How did this theme come about?

JM: It's something that almost came up by accident over the course of the writing process, especially towards the end. We were about two-thirds of the way through when we realized that the songs that we had kinda began to fit the theme of the story that we were living for the last two and a half years. I think Dave [Elkins] initially had the idea of the story book and it just evolved from there into this … (laughing) monster it became!

Keyboardist Rob Sweitzer

Every musician has a different idea of what success is, whether it be measured at a show or with a Grammy. What makes an album successful to you?

JM: I think the feeling that we had when *The Everglow* was handed to us for the first time, and the first time we saw it, and for me, at least personally, I know we've had long conversations about this … To have a vision for something, an idea about how you want something to turn out, like to actually be able to bring that to fruition and have the support of your label and our management and the people that helped facilitate that. For me, it was a success, if it hadn't sold it would've been disappointing that no one would have a copy because you create these to share with people otherwise you'd just be playing in your house, you know? But at the same time, like the feeling of success, just became this thing that I had imagined and we've all like, worked so hard to put together and have it actually turn out the way we wanted it to.


Bassist Mark Padgett

RS: I've got an addition to that … For me, success is getting the feedback and the response from people who's lives are being touched by it, you know. And I don't say that to be pretentious, like "Oh, you're music touches us," but I mean, it's not what I'm saying, it's what they're saying, you know, we get emails and comments on our MySpace, and just tons of people who just say that whatever the various circumstances that they are going through, it has helped them, it's inspired them and that to me, if it's touching a bunch of people, that to me is what makes it successful, so …

Your albums have been reviewed/sold on not only popular music websites and stores, but Christian sites and stores as well. What would you say you lean more towards? Do you consider yourselves more of a Christian band?

JM: Yeah, no, we don't like the idea of a Christian market. You know, faith is something that we all … deal with and talk about and experience, but the idea of selling that is kinda a weird thing. As an artist, that spirituality or belief system is in a sense the core of anybody who's a person. You have a belief system, that is a foundation of how you live your life and make your decisions, and as an artist you can't help but allow those things to influence your creativity. But to, in a sense, package that … I mean, we're musicians, if we were lawyers or doctors or auto mechanics we wouldn't be "Christian lawyers" or anything like that. We are musicians, our job is, fortunately, to be able to create art, create music, and that's what we want to be known as. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to leave a message in that as well but we're very much content at this point in life to kinda sit with questions more than to provide answers and I think that's something a lot of artists, especially if you're boxed in by an industry that says you have to present answers. It's hard to have questions, and I think that's something that gets missed a lot, unfortunately.

What kind of performance are you most known for giving? What would you like your audience to leave with after a Mae show?

RS: An awe inspiring, rock opera (laughter) epic! You know, series of multi sensory … alright. Stop. (laughter) Um, we just try to be as true to the music as possible and true to what we feel. We express ourselves, rather, we express ourselves through our music and we hope people can tell that we're very passionate about what we do and that's pretty much it.

JM: And we hope people leave with that sense of passion.

Last question, for all of you. Who's your favorite Ninja Turtle and why?

JM: (Laughter) I was always a fan of Michelangelo. And it was because of the nun chucks.

ZG: I liked Raphael, mainly because of his attitude in the movie.

RS: Donatello because I like his name (laughter)

JM: But if I had to pick now, I'd probably go with Leonardo.

You and Hopesfall then.

JM: Really? But that was then, this is now! Yeah, Leonardo rules!

-Photo by Emily Engel

Justin Parr slides home to score the game-winning run, then receives a victory hoist from his teammates in a 3-1 Mass. State conference victory over Fitchburg State.
Photos By Mickey Curtis

WSC Baseball, Softball Roundups

College Baseball
Westfield, Mass Maritime Split

BUZZARDS BAY – The Westfield State baseball squad split a doubleheader with Mass Maritime Academy on Sunday, April 10.

The Bucs (2-5, 1-3) won the opener, 5-4, in nine innings, while the Dwls (9-11, 2-2) coasted in the nightcap, 12-2.

In the first game, the Owls rallied for a run in the sixth and three in the seventh to take a 4-2 lead. Key hits in the seventh were an RBI single by Jay Brown and RBI doubles by Justin Parr and Troy Ferguson.

The Bucs battled back to score twice and send the game into extra innings. Mass Maritime scored the game winner on an unearned run in the ninth.

The Owls were outhit, 12-5. Ferguson was 2 for 3.

Starting pitcher Derek Anghilante went seven innings, allowing 10 hits and striking out six. Trent Rivers took the loss in relief.

The Owls banged 13 hits in nightcap, and scored four in the fourth inning to snap a 1-1 deadlock. Ferguson was 3 for 4 with a triple and double. Jay Brown blasted a triple and double and drove in two runs, and senior third baseman Matt Gurley was 2 for 4 with two runs scored and three RBI.

Joe Tremblay was the winning pitcher. He allowed seven hits and struck out five in sixth innings.

Westfield State 6
Nichols 5, 10 Innings

WESTFIELD – Sophomore shortstop Troy Ferguson (Rochester, Mass.) was 2-for-6 with three RBI, including the game-winning hit in the bottom of the 10th inning, to lead Westfield State to a 6-5 victory over Nichols.

The Bison (5-7) sent the game into extra innings when they were handed two runs in the top of the ninth. With two outs and the bases empty, Nichols tied the score with four straight walks and a wild pitch.

In the bottom of the 10th, Brett Ford and Justin Parr drew walks, then Ferguson ripped a 1-2 pitch up the middle for the game-winner.

The Dwls (7-9) took a 3-0 lead in the second inning on a sacrifice fly by Ford and a two-run triple by Ferguson.

Nichols tied the score in the sixth on an RBI double by Michael Barry and a two-run double by Luke McLaughlin. Westfield scored an unearned run in the seventh and a run in the eighth on an RBI single by pinch hitter Pat Jaehnig.

Collecting two singles for Westfield were Shaun Geary and Chris Hebert. Joe Tremblay pitched the final inning and a third for the victory.

College Softball
Westfield, Mass Maritime Split

BUZZARDS BAY – The Westfield State softball squad split a doubleheader with Mass Maritime Academy on Sunday, April 10.

The Owls (5-13, 1-3) won the opener, 8-0, in six innings, while the Bucs (2-7, 1-3) won the nightcap, 3-2.

In the first game, the Dwls blew open a 2-0 lead with a five-run uprising in the third inning. The Dwls took advantage of four Mass Maritime errors in the inning.

Winning pitcher Leah Peterson helped her cause at the plate, going 3 for 3 with an RBI. Senior catcher Liz Oliveira was 2 for 4 with two doubles and an RBI. Amanda Fregeau was 1 for 4 with two RBI.

Peterson tossed a one-hitter, allowing no walks and striking out five. Mass. Maritime's Michelle Smith broke up a perfect game with a one-out line drive single in the fifth.

In the second game, Mass Maritime snapped a 1-1 tie by scoring twice in the fifth inning. Westfield scored a run in its final at bat.

The Bucs outhit the Owls, 9-4. Peterson was 2 for 3 with an RBI and Oliveira pounded a double.

Beth Garfield suffered the mound setback; she was relieved in the fifth by Peterson.

Fitchburg Sweeps Westfield

WESTFIELD – Fitchburg State received a pair of strong pitching performances from Jenn Neslusan (Douglas, MA) and Michelle Yuille (Acushnet, MA) to sweep Westfield State, 3-0 and 2-1, in Mass. State Conference softball action.

Neslusan tossed a five-hit complete-game in the opener; she struck out two and allowed only one walk.

Losing pitcher Leah Peterson was 3-for-3 at the plate.

In the nightcap, Yuille also scattered five hits – all singles – in going the distance. She walked one and struck out four. Beth Garfield (Brockton) pitched into the third inning for Westficld to take the pitching loss; she was relieved by Peterson.

Shortstop Emily Tangney (Randoph) had an RBI single in the fourth inning for the Dwls.

Owls Gain Split With Fitchburg

WESTFIELD – Fitchburg State and Westfield State split a baseball doubleheader in the Mass. State Conference opening games on April 9.

Fitchburg (6-9, 1-1) took the opener, 15-6, as it exploded for 11 runs in the fourth inning. Westfield (8-10, 1-1) earned a split with a 3-1 victory in the well-played nightcap.

In the opener, the Falcons snapped a 1-1 deadlock by scoring its 11 runs on nine hits and four Westfield errors. The Owls mounted a mini-rally with a five-run uprising in the fifth.

Leadoff batter Dustin Fredieu was 3 for 4 with a double, triple and two RBI. Catcher Jeff Paquette (Billerica) was 3 for 5 with a double and four RBI and shortstop Ray Richards was 3 for 5 with a double and two RBI.

Westfield second baseman Justin Parr (North Attleboro) was 2 for 2 with a double and two runs scored. Pat Jaehnig (North Quincy) belted a two-run double.

In the nightcap, Fitchburg senior pitcher Rick Terry (Amesbury) was hurling hitless ball through four and two-thirds innings when Westfield sophomore Jay Hardell (Brooklyn, CT) tied the score with an opposite field solo home run over the rightfield fence.

The Dwls scored twice in the bottom of the sixth. Parr led off with a bunt single and was sacrificed to second by Troy Ferguson. Sophomore Jay Brown (East Windsor, CT) then delivered the game-winning hit when he plated Parr with a single down the leftfield line. The Dwls added an insurance run when senior Matt Gurley (Brockton) blasted an RBI double.

Joe DelSoldato (West Stockbridge) was the winning pitcher. The junior lefty allowed four hits and three walks and struck out three. Freshman Russ Lloyd (Palmer) pitched the final inning to earn the save.

Terry threw a complete game, allowing five hits, all in the final inning and a third. He walked two and whiffed two.

Senior pitcher Leah Peterson fired a one-hitter in an 8-0 victory over Mass. Maritime.
Photo By Mike Coughlin

College Policy and Special Regulations for Spring Weekend

College policy shall be enforced during Spring Weekend same as any other day on campus. Persons exhibiting disorderliness, intoxication, or any conduct in violation of College policy may be immediately removed from any event and subject to immediate removal from campus, protective custody, arrest and other appropriate College and legal action. All student conduct proscriptions, limitations and guidelines, as articulated in the current Westfield State College Student Handbook, are strictly enforced. In addition to College policy enforcement, the following special regulations apply from Thursday, April 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. through Monday, April 25, 2005 at 6:00 a.m., unless otherwise specified below.

Alcoholic Beverages

Westfield State College students shall present a valid WSC ID and a valid U.S. state-issued identification card or valid driver's license to enter a legal beverage concession area to purchase and/or consume alcoholic beverages. All others shall present a valid U.S. state-issued identification card or valid driver's license.

Alcoholic beverage service and/or consumption shall be confined to on campus areas designated by the College.

All alcoholic beverage containers including kegs, coolers and duffel bags are prohibited in public areas of the campus including all buildings, grounds, parking lots, walkways, courtyards, and roadways.

Alcoholic beverages shall not be transported to or from any program area on campus.

All bags and carrying items shall be subject to inspection upon entrance to program areas and/or residence halls on campus.

Open containers of any kind including soft drink containers, water bottles and squeeze bottles are prohibited in public areas of residence halls including the Apartment Complex courtyard.

All beverage containers (open or closed) are prohibited at the outdoor concert venue.

Event Attendance

Spring Weekend programs are solely intended for members of the College community and their invited guests; therefore, Spring Weekend is not open to the public. Furthermore, while there is no charge for admission to Spring Weekend events, attendance at all indoor and outdoor venues shall be monitored and controlled to ensure safety and order as deemed necessary by the Director of Public Safety.

Event Attendees

Westfield State College faculty/staff and students are required to present a valid WSC ID upon request of College officials. New or replacement ID's and ID validation stickers are not available during Spring Weekend but may be obtained in advance at the following locations during posted business hours:

Faculty/staff & full-time UG students go to Campus Center Service Window (Ely-132)

Graduate & part-time students go to Graduate and CE Office (333 Western Ave)

Westfield State College faculty/staff and students hosting guests on campus are expected to escort their guests at all times while on campus and to take responsibility for their guest's behavior. Unescorted guests may be asked by College officials to leave campus and to not return for the duration of Spring Weekend.

Registration of guests – Only student hosts must register their guests and obtain an authorized guest wristband for each guest. While there is no faculty/staff guest quota or guest wristband requirement, faculty/staff are reminded that Spring Weekend events typically contain adult language and themes and may not be suitable for all audiences. Student guest registration takes place April 3 -15 at the Campus Center Service Window during posted business hours. Student guest quotas are in effect as follows:

Commuter student guests – one guest per commuter attending; not to exceed the number of commuters in attendance.

Resident student guests - one guest per resident, not to exceed 220 guests as follows (50-Apts, 50-Courtney, 30-Davis, 30-Dickinson, 30-Lammers, and 30-Scanlon Hall).

Meals

Friday, April 22

Dinner, 4:30 – 6pm, steak/cheese sub, spaghetti/meatballs, garlic bread, deep dish pizza, baked potato bar, salad bar, quesadilla bar, fried chicken, dessert & beverage

Late-Night Breakfast (free while it lasts), 12am, pancakes, syrup, orange juice & coffee

Saturday, April 23

Continental Breakfast Buffet (free while it lasts), 10:30am, fruit plate, muffins, juice & coffee

Lunch, 12 - 3:30pm, turkey/ham/veggie subs, fruit salad, chips, cookies & beverage

Dinner, 4:30 – 6pm, chicken patties, veggie burgers, pasta salad, macaroni & cheese, watermelon, cookies and beverage

Meal Tickets

Complimentary meal tickets are available for all persons on a WSC meal plan at the College Dining Commons, Monday, April 18 - Friday, April 22. Others may purchase Spring Weekend meal tickets at the Campus Center Service Window (Ely-132) Tuesday, April 19 - Friday, April 22 during posted business hours. Meal Tickets will also be sold at outdoor concert entrance (Ely hill) on Saturday, April 23.

Meal Tickets are required for each resident student guest at Courtney, Davis, Dickinson, Lammers and Scanlon Hall (4/22 dinner, 4/23 lunch & dinner = $20 for all).

All Meal Ticket sales are final - no refunds will be issued. Checks are payable to: WSC Student Government Association.

Motor Vehicles

The following special regulations are in effect relative to motor vehicles:

The Ely roadway shall be closed to all traffic at the Power Plant on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 7:30 pm except for authorized staff and emergency vehicles.

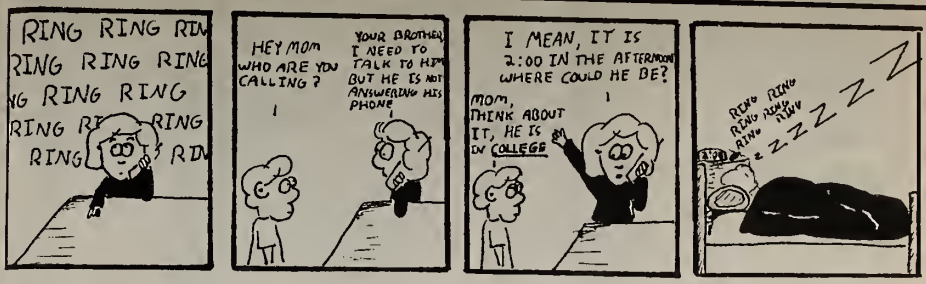
Guest and visitor vehicles may occupy faculty/staff parking spaces, however, student vehicle use of faculty/staff parking space is prohibited at all times.

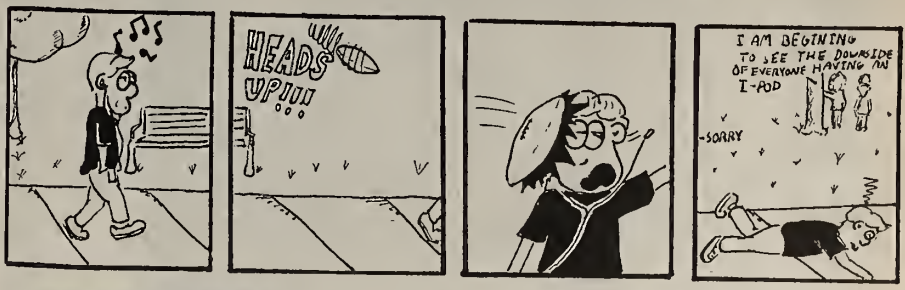
Mobile homes and recreational vehicles shall be prohibited on campus.

Overnight occupancy in motor vehicles is prohibited on campus.

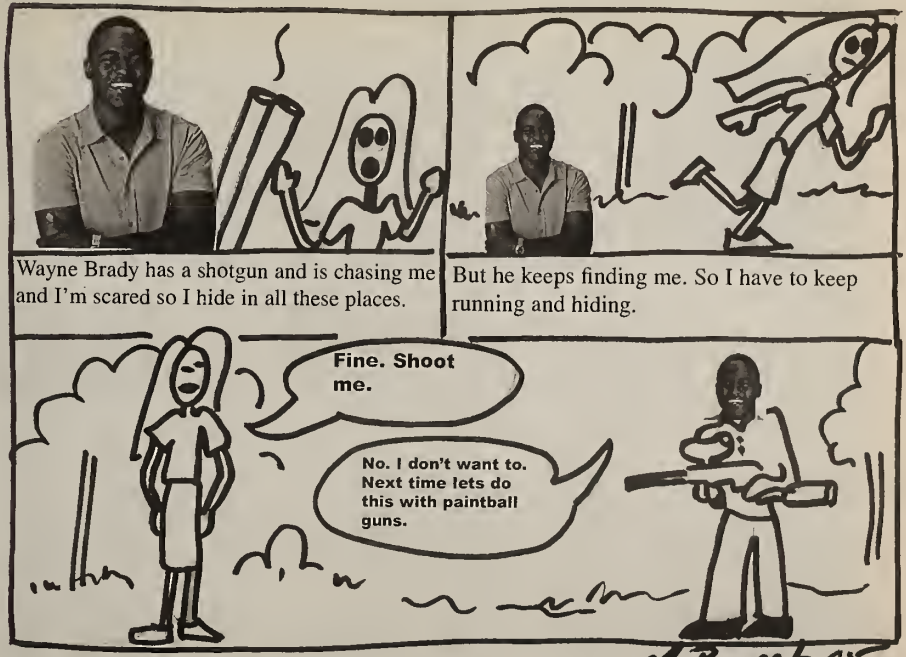
Residential Life Policy

Residence hall sign-in shall be in effect from noon on Friday, April 22 through 6:00 am Sunday, April 24. Resident students are expected to present their WSC ID when entering a residence hall and guests are required to present a valid U.S. state-issued photo identification (or a valid motor vehicle operator's license) and an authorized and properly affixed Spring Weekend guest wristband. Any/all resident student guests on campus April 21 – 24, 2005 must be at least 18 years of age. In addition, to enter a College residence hall on campus April 21 – 24, both the guest and student host must be signed-in at the residence hall by a resident of the hall.





Freaky Dreams



He finally finds me in the woods and I give up. But he doesn't shoot me.

The Back Page – This Week at WSC

PRESENTING OUR FIRST EVER CLASSIFIEDS SECTION (THIS YEAR)

Hi Kelly F!
Love, your favorite roo-mate, Lindsay!

Hi Lindsay M!
Love your gansta luva, Kelly

Electric Drum Set For Sale!
Roland V-Custom: Hardly used
Only $2500.00
Contact Brian Smuda Ext. 7020

Mon 4/18	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	WSC Baseball & Softball @ Bridgetwater State - WOOD - 12pm
Tue 4/19	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	WSC Baseball @ Becker - WOOD - 3:30pm
Wed 4/20	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm WSC Baseball against Williams - WOOD - 4pm	Mid-Week Musical - DA - 3:30pm Poetry Slam - EML - 6:30pm
Thurs 4/21	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	WSC Softball game @ Rhode Island - WOOD - 3:30pm	
Fri 4/22	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	Spring Weekend Drive-In - Campus Green - 4pm	Spring Weekend Brown Bag BINGO followed by a pancake breakfast- EML - 11pm
Sat 4/23	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - WSC Softball & Baseball @ Framingham-WOOD - 12pm	**Sun 4/24**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****
We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key
AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups
The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

Volume X April 18, 2005 Issue XXIII

Spring Weekend nears
Coming Bands – pg. 1
Events schedule – pg. 2

These liberals have pie on their face
pg. 8

Photo by- Mike Coughlin

Senate report calls for more spending in public higher education
pg. 1

Guitar Virtuoso Steve Vai rocks Hartford
pg. 11

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | April 25, 2005 | Issue XXIV

Cat out of the bag with WSC Student National Education Association

By Stephanie da Costa
Voice Reporter

Children's faces were lit up with appreciation and excitement on March 2nd, 2005. In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, the Westfield State College chapter of the Student National Education Association conducted a Read Across America event for the Abner Gibbs School in Westfield, Massachusetts.

This project was funded by a $1,000 CLASS (Community Learning Through Americas SchoolS) grant from the National Education Association's Student Program. This money was used to purchase approximately 100 hard-cover Dr. Seuss books.

"This event is absolutely amazing and it feels like a dream come true! There are no words for me to express the benefits these children will receive just by your organization

SNEA - Page 2

Frankenstein tops off trilogy

Photo by: Cliff Ashbrook

The Poetry Slam was held on Wednesday April 20 and was a huge success. More will be planned for the future.

By Lisandra Billings
News Editor

Joking jovially with one another, a group of young thespians gather outside of the theater where their fellow actors rehearse quietly inside. Though opening night is one week away, these student actors seem well prepared and anything but frazzled.

"We've been rehearsing for the play (Frankenstein) every week, Monday through Thursday, since January," said Colin Kiley, a senior theater major.

The second major production put on by the Westfield State theater program this year, Frankenstein is also the last play of a trilogy that began in the fall of 2003. According to Kiley, the trilogy, which also includes Dr. Faustus and R.U.R., relate to human nature.

"The trilogy of plays is about human tendencies to overstep boundaries and play God," he said.

Though the story of Frankenstein, based on Mary Shelley's famous novel, has been told many times through various forms of theater as well as film, those involved with the production say that what makes the production so special is that it is unlike the typical Frankenstein story people often hear.

"Other adaptations for Frankenstein for stage as well as film have not been close

Play - Page 2

Panel discusses torture in Scanlon Hall

By Emily Engel & David Pageau
Voice Reporter

At 7 p.m., forty students gathered in Scanlon Banquet Hall on Tuesday night to witness a panel of professors discuss the issues of torture and how it affects those involved. Professor Stephen Sossaman's Issues in Vietnam class, which organized the Iraq war debate that took place in early March, also organized this event.

"I'm here for the enlightening discussion. It will hopefully expand my brain matter further than I ever dreamed," said Ryan Hackett, a junior who attended the discussion. With him was junior Jon Mitchell who said he liked to be involved in campus activities, which was the reason he attended.

Psychology Professor Virginia Powers-Lagac, philosophy Professor Liam Harte, and history Professor Mark Abate led the audience in a discussion.

Professor Harte started off the discussion with the background of torture, looking at it from an ethical standpoint.

Professor Abate discussed the history of torture, focusing mainly on medieval times and it's lasting affects on the modern world.

Professor Virginia Power-Lagac discussed the psychological affects. Professor Powers has worked with people suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and discussed how this particular disorder was quite common amongst those who have gone through various torture.

The discussion raised several questions for students, mostly pertaining to the affects on the individuals involved in torture. Some students asked

Torture - Page 2

WSC republicans honored

By Alex Trazsko
Special To The Voice

Six Westfield State College students attended the annual convention of the Massachusetts Alliance of College Republicans (MACR) last Saturday, and were honored by the State College Republicans. The convention took place at the Hyatt Harborside Hotel in Boston, and lasted from the morning of Saturday, April 9 through Sunday. This was the first time in many years that Republicans from Westfield State attended this convention. The six, Jill Guilmain, Dave Pageau, Melissa Ryan, Desiree Saloio, Adam Shibley, and Alex Trzasko, represented the 21 members of the Westfield State College Republicans.

Shibley and Trzasko served as the colleges voting delegates to the convention, and joined the 115 other delegates from over two dozen College Republicans Clubs in Massachusetts. The delegates voted on the new executive board of the MACR for the coming academic year, and also who Massachusetts would support for the national college Republicans. Though WSC only had two voting delegates, all six members who attended took an

GOP - Page 3

When it comes to the DC it's up to the students

By Haley Paton
Voice Reporter

For educational institutions there is some debate as to whether or not hiring outside food companies is more beneficial when compared to self-operated dining services.

Currently Westfield State College, like several other state institutions throughout the country, uses Sodexho food services and also features an on-campus Subway sandwich shop, while the nearby University of Massachusetts operates its dining services independently.

According to dining services general manager Craig Goodridge and director Ken Toong, of Westfield State College and UMASS, respectively, both contend that the decisions they make all rely heavily on what students want as well as what will keep prices of meal plans down.

Westfield spends $3.5 million annually on its food services, according to the financial administration. UMASS spent $10 million last year. The difference between the cost of the highest meal plan for each of the schools is roughly $400. However, this may be due in part to the size difference between the institutions.

As far as giving students what they want, Goodridge notes in reference to WSC student's interest in having a

Sodexho - Page 2

Find out who your new president is

pg. 2

This year's Spring Weekend lame without Dane Editor's Desk

pg. 2

Inside

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Sodexho

Dunkin Donuts on campus, that when using outside companies, everything that students ask for he may not be able to obtain for them..

"People's perception is anytime I ask [nationally known brand companies] to show up here they're gonna show up here," Goodridge said in a recent interview.

Whether or not a franchise develops an outlet on a college campus depends heavily on its business relationship with a particular college and its food services, as well as its relationship with educational institutions in general.

On the surface, it may seem odd that Westfield State College continues to operate a Subway shop in its student center while its Taco Bell outlet was closed, considering that there are two Subway locations elsewhere in the city of Westfield but the nearest Taco Bell is in West Springfield. However, according to Westfield State College Vice President of Administration and Finance, Nick Wojtowicz, there are logical business reasons for Subway's opening and continuance as well as for Taco Bell's switch to the Sodexho version, Quixote's.

According to Wojtowicz, there was concern about students traveling to the Subway downtown at 10 or 11 at night, some without cars using public transportation, as well as an expression of extreme interest in acquiring the fast food on campus.

"Students want branded concepts," Wojotwicz said in a recent interview, explaining that there is a committee as part of SGA that is devoted to dining services and addressing student's concerns, in part by surveying students.

"Our students told us that their first choice was a Subway…next choice was a Taco Bell," Wojotwicz said.

Both Wojotwicz and Goodridge said that Taco Bell's departure was a corporate decision by the company to pull out of all its campus locations throughout the country, the reason being that they felt such locations were not lucrative enough to keep operating.

Wojtowicz said that "Sodexho leverage" and attempts to stop Taco Bell from leaving the college "did not matter."

"Each brand has a different relationship," Goodridge said, adding that most of the time such relationships are mutual, "otherwise we wouldn't go into business together."

Having Subway on campus, according to Goodridge, "is a benefit to the campus and Sodexho," explaining that Sodexho bought the franchise and that profits are split along percentages by Subway and the college.

Jasmine's was built instead of Starbuck's, Goodridge said, because it was seen as a more affordable option for students, which in turn is more lucrative for the college.

Of Starbucks, Goodridge said, "if the price is too high…just because we build it doesn't mean you have to come."

The next company being considered for an on-campus site is Pizza Hut. Under the school's current contract with Pepsi, only Pepsi-owned companies can be acquired. For example, if students wanted a burger fast-food restaurant, the school could build a Burger King but not a McDonald's.

Wojtowicz says that he has seen "too many Domino's deliveries at night."

"The big question," he says, "is, 'where are we gonna to put it'?"

Toong says that students at UMASS just don't have any interest in getting fast food on-campus.

UMASS's food services, according to Toong, have always been self-operated, which means that instead of being pressured to "meet the needs and contract for a company," the university is free to put any extra money "that would go to an outside company" into a reserve fund for future improvements and projects.

Toong did say, however, that "in each case it's different."

If UMASS students suddenly showed interest in outside food companies, through student surveys conducted twice a year, Toong said, the college would run into a problem. Franchises would want "12 % commission for every dollar."

"We have union labor," said Toong. "I don't think we can afford it."

Toong did say that the college does buy supplies from outside companies, but that the companies it uses, such as Tyson chicken and Famous Famiglia, are "in house brands" and are not the same as providing a franchise.

"For us to bring a franchise in or national brand is very, very expensive," Toong said.

Before bringing in any in house brand, Toong said, he does his homework.

Still, Toong says, it depends on the needs of the students and the school. "If you can do it, do it yourself; if you can't, do it outside."

Torture

about the specifics when it came to being tortured and what methods were actually used.

After the discussion, students gathered and discussed their reactions to the panel. Most thought that this discussion would have been more "heated" than the Iraq debate because the subject matter was so controversial.

"I thought it was going to be more harsh, but after thinking about it, I realized that this was a panel, not a debate and the entire evening was set up quite differently," Mitchell said.

Students were also quite upset over the face that faculty did not show up for this event, much like the Iraq war debate.

"There were fewer people, and again, faculty were missing. This was the first thing I noticed when I came into the banquet hall. It seems as though faculty only care about themselves and their own events. It's a shame." said one student.

This panel discussion was the second and last event that the Issues in Vietnam class has planned and showcased for the general public.

From the Editor's Desk

The No-Dane Campaign

Ah, Spring. When a young man's fancy turns to "Eh, I kinda like her." When there are booty shorts and little tank tops as far as the eye can see. When the grass on the green finally turns from dark brown to a light tan. And also, of course, the infamous Westfield State Spring Weekend knocks on our door.

We have all come to know and love the events that occur on this campus for two glorious days. Bingo, pancakes, random bag checks from scary ISO's. It's all here! And you know, this year, it could've really been spectacular. If it wasn't for the pesky meddling of the athletics department and their decision to rape the college of a seemingly wonderful entertainer.

Imagine. A comedian, a famous comedian, a hilarious comedian, gracing the campus and putting on a show that everyone would've enjoyed, despite, gender, race, creed or favorite baseball team. And on top of this, CAB would not have gone over budget. Perfection, if you ask me, and something that rarely happens here.

For the last few weeks, SGA and CAB have been under fire, being blamed for the mishap that was the "No Dane Campaign," as I like to call it. But alas, it actually wasn't their fault this time.

So what was the problem? Well, Dever Auditorium is too small to hold the amount of students that would've showed up for an event like this. Parenzo gym? Again, too small and apparently the sound system isn't up to par. It couldn't happen outdoors either. So where would we stash the funny man? Ah, the Woodward Center! That holds 4,000 people and has up-to-date equipment! What a fabulous idea!

But of course, darkness descended upon our little ray of hope.

We have, in fact, been thwarted by the evil athletic department and their Woodward Center snobbery. According to reliable sources, the main reason Dane Cook was refused from performing was the fact that the Woodward Center is offline, its to everyone and everything except "sports related events." Well, la-de-DA. Doesn't the athletic department get all the privileges as it is?

I'm sorry, but wasn't this multi-million dollar building created for the good of everyone at Westfield? Wasn't it built for events that held a lot of people? I'm sure that the five or so people who attend sporting events at the Woodward center enjoy all that extra leg room, but couldn't anyone have found it in their hearts to look past athletics, for like, a day? Instead, acting like a bunch of two year olds, "Wah, no, this center is OURS AND OURS ALONE" seems like the way to go.

Too bad really. Spring Weekend might've been fun and something everyone would've come together for.

But wait, what am I talking about? Spring Weekend is about beer. And not only that, we're going to have Averi perform in a hot, crowded gym! But hey, we should be impressed with the fact that Averi has performed with the likes of the uber-talented Aaron Carter! It's not every day that we get celebrities of that status to visit our humble abode.

I should stop whining.

Emily Engel
Managing Editor
thecampusvoice@hotmail.com

2005 SGA Election Results

ALL COLLEGE POSITIONS:
President - Matt Curren
Vice-President of Student Life - Colin Drury
Vice-President of Finance - Kerri Donovan
Vice-President of Programming - Emily Ransom
Treasure - Kristine Miele
Executive Secretary - Sarah Johnston
Secretary to the Legislature - Sarah Odachowski
Student Trustee - Steven Sawyer
All College Reps - James Mattson, Kaitlyn Foster, Christina Hanks, Catherine Hanks
Multicultural Representative - John Riddell, Erin Mulligan
Commuter Council Represenative - Craig Escribski

CLASS OF 2006:
President - Michael Lawlor
Vice-President - Matt Curren
Treasurer - Edward Paris
Secretary - Sheri Thresher
Historian - Emily Ransom
Alumni Representative - Kristine Miele
Publicity Cordinator - Erin Palmer
Representative to Senate - Stephanie Da Costa, Alana Signor, William Bennett, Danyelle Dilliard

CLASS OF 2007:
President - Matthew Madden
Vice-President - Stephen Maher
Treasurer - Lisa Rodger
Secretary - Katie Quist
Historian - Kaitlyn Cambell
Aumni Representative - Shannon Buckley
Publicity Coordinator - Kelly Forsythe
Representative to Senate - Michael Mazeika, Margaret Rabs

CLASS OF 2008:
President - Michael Primeau
Vice-President - Patrick Logan
Treasrer - Bobby Goodwin
Secretary - Sarah Odachowski
Historian - Jillian Kozil
Alumni Representative - Julie McNally
Publicity Coordinator - Celeste Evans
Representatives to Senate -Lisa Wilkinson, Sara Prentice, Randi Lucius

GOP

active role in deciding who the delegates would support.

The convention began with a panel discussion on "Purple Politics: Red State Politics in a Blue State". Members of the panel, from professors to former candidates for political office, focused on strategies that Republicans could use to win elections in a heavily Democratic state like Massachusetts, as well as general political philosophy. WSC Republicans Secretary, Jill Guilmain, felt that the panel was valuable because it showed the variation of the Republican Party.

"I think that the panel did a good job in representing all sides of the Republican Party, from responsible government spending to almost no government spending at all." After the panel was a speech by Republicans State Party Chairman Darrell Crate, who spoke on the benefits of political action on college campuses. Elections were then held for the new executive board of the MACR.

The Westfield State College Republicans were honored by the executive board of the MACR as "The Best New Club in the MACR". This honored was bestowed upon the WSC Republicans because of their revival from non-existence to a club of over twenty members, and because of their hours of work on both political campaigns and community service projects. MACR Chairman Brad Smith of Harvard and his executive board delivered this award to the WSC students toward the end of the convention.

All this business does not mean that there was no pleasure at the convention. After the formalities, a boat cruise took all convention attendees around Boston Harbor as evening fell. When the cruise ended, there were several gatherings held in which College Republicans from all over the state had a chance to meet and discuss their clubs and exchange ideas. "We had a great time talking to others" said WSC Republicans Chairman Alex Trzasko. "We learned a lot from them about how they run their clubs, and I think some learned from us." The WSC student's who attended all agreed that it was time well spent, and they can't wait for next year's convention.

File photo

The members of Westfield State's Republican Club traveled to the Hyatt Hotel in Boston for the Massachusetts Association of College Republicans.

Voice of the Week

Mateo Delarosa

Role at WSC: The new RD of Courtney Hall

Favorite part of the job: Interactions with the students

What made him interested in becoming an RD: After going through college he didn't know what to do. He was pushed towards being an RD and has been one for nine years in places such as New York, Puerto Rico, and Florida.

Favorite movie: Grease

Favorite TV show: America's Next Top Model

Favorite song: "If" by Janet Jackson

First Job: McDonalds

What he wanted to be when he was little: A teacher

Superhero he would choose to be: "I would be one of the Charmed ones because when you are in a difficult decision, you can just freeze and think about it."

Advice to Students: "Living on campus and going to college is a direct reflection of the real world. Take all opportunities that are given to you and figure out how you can apply them to life after college."

SNEA

taking the time to care" said one of the cooperating teachers as she helped to choose books for her classroom.

The students in the second and third grade at Abner Gibbs School received a Dr. Seuss book that was specifically chosen by their classroom teachers to meet their individualized needs, and the members of SNEA were able to witness the pure exhilaration and joy that the children were demonstrating.

Courtney Shores, a member of the organization said, "It was so rewarding to see the children receive brand new books and be engaged in the excitement of reading, and I was so glad to be a part of it." This event is important because it provides underprivileged students with experiences they may not have received without the organizations help.

During the event, there were four classrooms (two second grade and two third grade rooms) and there were approximately 5-6 members in each room. While in the rooms, the members read-aloud The Cat in the Hat and then completed an extension activity that helped promote literacy and the language arts.

While the activities were in progress, the Cat in the Hat, portrayed by Westfield State's own Peter Appleby, hand delivered these books to each 2nd and 3rd grade student. As one little girl said after receiving her book, "this book is new! You mean I get to keep this? I have never had a new book before!"

It was those statements that made this endeavor more than worthwhile. The remainder of the books were donated to the school library and the participating teachers.

The 2004-2005 school year has been a year of marked progress for the Student National Education Association here at WSC. The SNEA, which is made up of eighty members, is an organization on campus that helps future educators prepare for their professions. Kelly Fay, a senior SNEA member has said, "I think SNEA is a great organization for any education major to be a part of. There are always different events being planned for us to get involved in and to broaden our horizons not only about education, but also about getting involved in the community."

The group provides their members with professional development, field experience, conferences, as well as many other community involvement events. The SNEA has recently volunteered at a Special Olympics Bowling tournament, Shriner's Hospital in Springfield, and will hold several other events in the coming weeks such as a principal panel, a scholastic book donation drive, as well as some guest speakers.

The Westfield State College students are focusing their attention on motivating students to read and enhance basic literacy skills. Each year the NEA nationally promotes and celebrates reading on or around Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2nd, through their Read Across America program.

If you would like more information, please contact the Student National Education Association's email: SNEAWSC@yahoo.com.

Play

to Mary Shelley's intentions," said Jack Shea, writer and director of the production. "What most people see is a monster with blots in his neck that walks around slowly and can't talk. But what you don't get to see in these versions is, for instance, that in the novel he actually learns language and to read through observation."

It is because of his aspirations to perform a play that truly depicts the novel that Shea wrote the original script. While the writing process began over winter break, Shea said that the script has gone through three revisions and is now in its fourth draft. Although the first, public showing is only a week away, Shea said that the script is still occasionally adjusted.

"There are still little tweaks," he said. "You have to cut and rewrite lines, it's a constant state of refinement."

"There are still little tweaks...It's a constant state of refinement."

Jack Shea

According to senior Erin Roache, who plays Elizabeth in the play, it is the original scrip that makes the play so unique.

"You're watching a piece of history," she said. "The same performance is never repeated, it's fresh every night."

The play, running from April 27 – April 30, costs $2 for students, $6 for faculty and staff and $8 for general admission. Shea encourages students to go but warns them that the production will be very different from what they would expect of the story.

"This version of Frankenstein deals more with philosophy and psychology," he said. "Yet at times, because of what she [Mary Shelley] wrote, it's really horrific."

Editor's Note:

You may have noticed this week's paper to be rather skimpy. There's a reason. Due to technical dificulties with our computers it was only possible to put out a four page paper. We apologize and will have a full issue next week.

The Voice

Volume X April 25, 2005 Issue XXIV

Campus Flicks!
4/25 - Collateral & The Manchurian Candidate
4/26 - The Perfect Score & Spanglish
4/27 - Closer & White Chicks
4/28 - Lemony Snickets
4/29 - 5/1 - The Bourne Supremacy & Suspect

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACKI (THE BEST TOUR GUIDE ON CAMPUS) & TIM!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TARYN!! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

From, Kelly & Lindsay

Mon 4/25	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	Mr. Courtney Hall Competition - DA - 6pm
Tue 4/26	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30pm	
Wed 4/27	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm Frankenstein Performance - Ely Theater - 8pm	Commuter BBQ - Quiotes Dining Area - 11am-2pm
Thurs 4/28	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Frankenstein Performance - Ely Theater -8pm	Spring Kick-Off Concert - EML - 6pm
Fri 4/29	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	Frankenstein Performace - Ely Theater - 2:30pm & 8pm	Brown Bag BINGO - EML - 11pm
Sat 4/30	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML - Frankenstein Performance - Ely Theater - 2:30pm & 8pm	**Sun 5/1**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****
We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key
AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups
The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248
Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

Man or Monster? See Frankenstein and Decide pg. 1

SGA Election results pg. 2

An in-depth look at Sodexho pg. 1

Do You Like Pain? pg. 1

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

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WSC to have small role on the big screen

By Rebecca Oliver
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College will be featured in an upcoming Martin Scorcese picture. "The Departed" is expected to be done with production by summer 2006.

Bruce Hughes of Warner Bros. Pictures contacted Projects Coordinator Holly Robbins of the Office of Advancement and College Relations in early March.

Hughes said while doing research for the movie, which is a police drama, statistics showed that Westfield State College produced the most Massachusetts State Troopers.

Robbins has been in constant contact with Hughes sending WSC paraphernalia, including sweatshirts, hats, mousepads, mugs, pens and blank diplomas, to serve as the backdrop for either offices or apartments in the movie.

Currently Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson and Mark Walhberg have been contracted for the picture.

Wireless being looked into for Wilson

By Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief

The student government association (SGA) held one of their final meetings for the year on Wednesday April 26 and announced the possibility of Westfield State College getting wireless internet for Wilson hall and the library.

SGA president Matthew Curren announced that the IT Committee had gotten together a team of consultants to come in over the summer and see how expensive it would be for those buildings to go wireless.

Daryl Hendery Executive Director of Student Affairs reminded the members of SGA that the IT Committee would support a wireless connection in Wilson and the library.

"It won't necessarily become wireless anytime soon," said Hendery.

A number of announcements made during the resident hall reports concerned the upcoming year end events. Among them:

- Dickinson hall's "May Madness" to be held on May 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SGA - Page 2

Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi to speak at Westfield State College

By Craig Phelon
Special to the Voice

Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will speak at 7 p.m., Monday, May 2, in Dever Auditorium at Westfield State College. The lawyer, judge and human rights activist from Iran will speak about her work for women and children's rights and freedom of speech. The presentation is part of the college's Guest Lecture Series, which is free and open to the public.

Her appearance is also a follow up to the college's Global Women's History Project conference, April 14-17, featuring women prominent in the human rights movements in Iraq and Iran. Ebadi's talk will reflect the conference theme, "Women of Iraq and Iran: Visionaries in the 21st Century."

Ebadi is the founder and leader of the Association for Support of Children's Rights in Iran. She has written a number of academic books and articles focused on human rights. Among her books translated into English are, The Rights of the Child. A Study of Legal Aspects of Children's Rights in Iran, published with support from UNICEF, and History and Documentation of Human Rights in Iran.

"Shirin Ebadi has a transformative vision critical to our goal of world peace," said by Elise G. Young, professor of history and director of the Global Women's History Project. "She notes that linking educational institutions across national-ist boundaries is a key to

Nobel- Page 2

Wet spring weekend not completly washed out

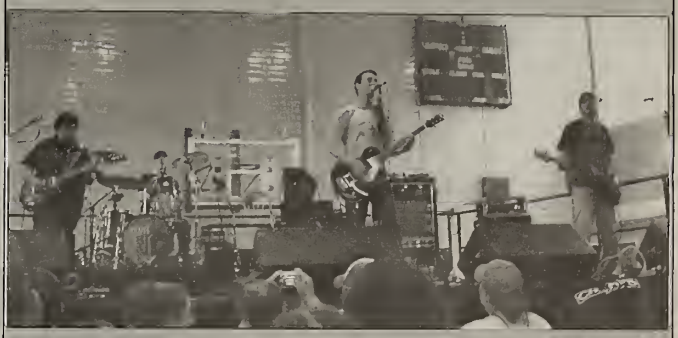

Photo by: Gisel Cahoon

Despite a wet blustery Saturday many students showed up to the Parenzo Gym to see Saiurn, State Radio and Avert Play. Full pictorial pg. 10-11

Summer work available from good old WSC

Need a summer job? Don't feel like babysitting the brats across the street or spending another summer jockeying the register at the large, souless retail store you always work at?

Westfield State College has released all of this summer's job openings available on campus and are looking for qualified students to fill the posistions.

Many of the jobs are for custodial posistions along with posistions in the library, maintenance, the fitness center, Woodward Center and others.

All of the jobs are full time unless otherwise noted and have a start date around mid May. They last for about 10 weeks

All applicants must be at least 16 years old. Applications for the following posistions can be found online at http://www.wsc.ma.edu/humanresources/SummerEmploymentApplication.pdf

Applications are currently being reviewed by human resources and will continue to be until all posistions are filled.

Turn to page 3 for a complete list of jobs and descriptions

On the cover: Contestents from this past Monday's Mr. Courtney Hall contest. The winner was Kellen Curcuru.

A&E editor is 'housing' about new show on Fox

pg. 12

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Nobel

world peace. We are honored to help her to realize that vision by bringing her here to educate our college community and to educate the general public about the lives, experiences, and visions of Iranian women, and about Iranian women's profound impact on the history and politics of their region."

She served as president of the city court of Tehran, one the first female judges in Iran. After the revolution in 1979 she was forced to resign. She now works as a lawyer and also teaches at the University of Tehran.

"Shirin Ebadi has a transformative vision critical to our goal of world peace,"

Elise G. Young, Director of the Global Women's

She has led efforts to change Iran's discriminatory laws against women, to provide more protection for street children, and to free those detained for expressing their opposition to the government. She has continued her advocacy despite detention, suspension from legal practice and repeated threats to her security.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT – 2005
TEN WEEK POSITIONS
(Full-time unless otherwise noted)

POSITIONS ARE CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING
PREFERENCE GIVEN TO CURRENT WSC STUDENTS

COLLEGE FOR KIDS ASSISTANT (2 positions)

Part-time, 20 hours per week. Duties include day-to-day assistance with College for Kids, including office assistance, supervision of students, assisting parents and instructors in communication between the office and classrooms, general organizational duties. Qualifications: Organized and self-motivated, must work well with adults and children; ability to work without direct supervision. Pay scale: $7.50 - $8.40 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 07/11/2005.

CUSTODIAL WORKER I (15 positions)

Individuals hired for these positions will be required to assist in the summer cleaning and preparation of residence halls for the upcoming school year. Duties include washing bathrooms, student rooms, hallways, laundry areas, activity rooms, and other areas within the halls. Work to include using general commercial cleaning products such as disinfectants and associated cleaning agents; operation of commercial vacuum cleaners and other electric cleaning equipment. Some lifting and moving of furniture is also part of the assignment. Experience in custodial field a plus though willing to train. Must have ability to perform manual labor requiring standing, lifting, reaching, and pulling. Pay scale: $7.00 to $8.00 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/23/2005.

DATA ENTRY CLERK (1 position)

Part-time, 20 hours per week. Duties to include data entry and other office responsibilities including filing and answering telephone. Must be knowledgeable with Windows applications including Microsoft Word and Excel. Pay Scale: $7.50 to $8.00 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/23/2005.

HVAC/Mechanic Apprentice (1 position)

Receives direct supervision from the campus HVAC Mechanic. The individual hired for this position must have general knowledge of the HVAC trade; general knowledge in the use of hand tools and soldering equipment; and a graduate or current student from a vocational high school with a HVAC major. Pay Scale: $7.50 - $8.00 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 07/01/2005.

From the Editor's Desk

A word about last week

It's finals time and everybody is freaking out. This always happens when the year winds down and suddenly the library becomes the cool place to be. Good luck trying to get a computer though.

Up here in the office we've had our own share of computer problems that manifested themselves last week in a full-blown melt down of the one computer we actually need. It figures, the computer from the 1980's with the original version of Pong runs fine every week but the one we use every day, shits the bed.

And that's how we ended up churning out an issue that was sub par in quality. Four pages? Those weekly rags you see at the checkout counter at Stop & Shop have done better work. That's a fact.

That's not the big problem though. The big problem with last week's paper was brought to my attention by one of the paper' advisors Professor George Layng of the English Department.

Before becoming a professor here Layng was a working journalist in Connecticut for a number of years. His advice is always greatly appreciated and always right on target. Such was the case last week.

There are some things in journalism you just don't do. These include but are not limited to, don't piss off the advertisers, keep the reporter's voice out of hard news and avoid flaming conflicts of interest. Well, looks like in the last issue we broke those last two in spectacular fashion.

The articles I speak of include one written by Alex Trzesko of WSC's Republican club and one by Stephanie de Costa about the WSC Student National Education Association.

Both of the articles were well written and I wouldn't want to discourage others from submitting. Similar ones. The problem is more in the placement of the articles.

Opinion doesn't belong in the front pages. The excuse I have for allowing this to happen is lame, however it's the only one I have. I was too busy worrying about getting out a paper more than what went in it.

That said there are only two issues left this year. The one you hold in your hands and next week's. So savor these last few papers. Get down real close the paper your holding this very moment and breathe in the ink, smell it's absolute pulpyness, feel it's light yet pleasing texture. You can't get that over the summer.

Matthew Bernat
Editor In Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

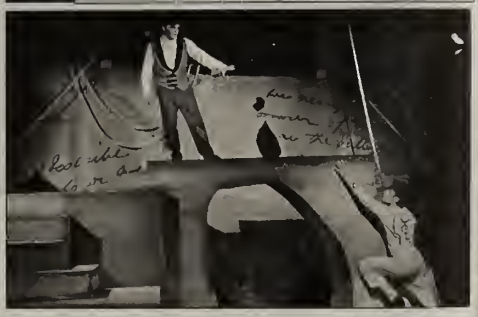

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

A sold out 'Frankenstein' opened on April 27. The play was written by WSC's own Jack Shea

SGA

- Scanlon hall's "Campout Double Feature" to be held on May 4 at 8:30 p.m. The event will be held outside. Scanlon hall president Kurt Bolgen said the event would definitely be taking place.

"I checked the weather channels superforecast it's going to be clear and around 50 degrees. So bring your sweatshirt, blanket, space heater, whatever," said Bolgen.

Bolgen also encouraged students form other halls to join in the event.

- The Davis hall barbeque is taking place May 4 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. That event will feature lots of food and the band Brightwings.

Mike Lawlor presented the junior class report and announced that the junior class is already underway with planning their senior convocation.

Lawlor said the speakers are narrowed down to professor Michael Filas of the english department, Maddy Cahill of the communication department and Sandra Berkowitz of the education department.

Ashley Zolenski of the senior class announced that the sales of their spring weekend t-shirts went well.

Zolenski said they had ordered 150 t-shirts and had about 40 left.

They can be bought at the campus service window.

Zolenski also said a trip to the Grey House was planned for May 11. After that the freshmen class would be helping out the charitable organization for next semester.

Dan Cooper gave the commuter council report and announced that an ice cream social would be held Tuesday May 3 in front of Ely from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

LIBRARY – STUDENT ASSISANT (2 positions)

Part-time, 20 hours per week. Tasks include collection inventory, processing of library materials, filing, answering telephone, and other duties as assigned. Qualifications: interest in library research; positive service-minded approach towards patrons, staff and co-workers; punctual; honest and dependable. Pay Scale: $7.25-$7.50 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/23/2005.

LIBRARY – ASSISANT (1 position)

Part-time, 12 + hours per week. Assist as needed in all operations of Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, and Serials departments. Use the library system to charge, discharge, and circulate library materials. Shelve library materials; preparing ILL materials for shipping; preparing serials and newspapers for display. Provide directions/assistant to library patrons as needed. Qualifications: Must have basic computer skills; library experience is preferred. Must have physical ability to lift moderate weights (books) and reach upper shelves. Must be available evenings on Monday and Tuesday. Pay Scale: $7.25 to $7.50 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/23/2005.

LIFEGUARD (1 position)

Part-time, 10 hours per week. The lifeguard on duty is responsible for the safety and well- being of all who enter the swimming pool area. Successful candidate/s must posses current advance lifesaving card; current CPR Certification; and must be punctual and able to work without constant supervision. Pay Scale: $7.25 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/23/2005.

MAINTENANCE WORKER I (12 - 18 positions)

Individuals hired for these positions will be required to perform general grounds maintenance, housekeeping, painting, and maintenance of college buildings as assigned by supervisor. Pay scale: $7.00 to $8.50 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/31/2005.

MAINTENANCE WORKER I/TRADES ASSISTANT (1-2 positions)

Individual(s) hired will be assisting electricians. Must have skill in electrical work and hands on experience with related tools. Pay scale: $7.50 to $8.50 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/31/2005.

LAB ASSISTANT III (2 positions)

Assist in setting up and breaking down Biology labs; assist in maintaining greenhouse and outside gardens; assist in caring for lab animals and aquariums; assist with general office work as needed. Must be computer literate, dependable, and willing to complete assignment in a thorough manner. Must have general office skills. Pay Scale: $8.00 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/24/2005.

WOODWARD CENTER/Student Supervisors (4 positions)

Individuals hired for these positions will be responsible for the opening and closing of facilities within the Center; setting up and breaking down for certain events; check ID's and sign-in of guests; enforce Woodward Center policies; cleaning equipment; keeping statistics of participants and other duties as assigned by Building Supervisor. Qualifications: Must be willing to work early mornings (6am) and weekends. Must be responsible, trustworthy, punctual, and professional. Must have great interpersonal skills and customer service oriented. Experience in working in fitness facility or field house preferred. MSSLS major a plus. Pay scale: $7.50 to $8.00 per hour. Anticipated State Date: 05/16/2005.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENTS:
Applicants must be a minimum of 16 years of age. Summer Employment Application online at http://www.wsc.ma.edu/humanresources/SummerEmploymentApplication.pdf or via the Human Resources Office, 333 Western Avenue, 572-5637. Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR W.S.C. EMPLOYEES NOT USUALLY EMPLOYED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS:
Submit an Internal Application Form identifying the position of interest. Internal Application Forms are available in the Human Resources Office or via
http://odyssey/hr/Employment%20Opportunities/Internal%20Application.doc

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE
333 WESTERN AVENUE
WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
WESTFIELD, MA 01086-1630

Voice of the Week

Daryl Hendry

Role at WSC: Executive Director of Student Affairs. He oversees the management in the campus center, wellness center, and National Student Exchange. He also assists Student National Government, and all clubs and organizations upon request, and is chair of the college appeals board.

Years spent working at WSC: This is his 25th year

Favorite part of the job: "Helping students get to the next level, whatever that is for them. Everyone has different aspirations and goals and there is no better day than when a student says thank you for what you did for them."

Favorite movie: *Casablanca*

Favorite TV show: *Westwing*

Favorite song: "Amazing Grace" sung by Aaron Nevel

First professional job: Director of student activities at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York

What he wanted to be when he was little: A Gymnast. "I was in varsity gymnastics in high school and I thought it would be cool to be a part of the olympics."

Superhero he would choose to be: Robin Hood

What he likes to do when he's not at work: "I am a family man- I like to spend time with young kids and I like participating in church activities

Compiled by: Bridget Gleason

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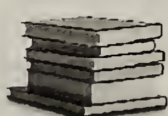

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Voices Overheard

Popped collars: Yay or nay?

Betty Dely
Class of 2008
Psychology

"Yay! It's something different."

Mandi Donohoe
Class of 2008
Movement Science

"Nay. Too John Travolta."

Amanda Parker
Class of 2007
Mass Comm

"Nay. My boyfriend does it and it drives me nuts."

Christina Goncalves
Class of 2007
Education/Liberal Studies

"Yay. I'm not gonna lie, I think it's cute."

Voices Overheard compiled by Amy Cirrone

Moving Back Home?
Call to reserve your truck or van today.

10% off one-way rentals with this ad.

18 year old drivers at no extra fees.

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PENSKE
Truck Rental

Location
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Chicopee MA

Phone Number
413-594-5186

Aimed at guys, Axe really smells -- like money

By Robin Givhan
The Washington Post

Fragrances are a personal thing, and so one man's sweet aroma is another man's stench. Thus every effort will be made not to render too cruel a judgment upon Axe, the deodorant body spray that arrived on these shores from Europe and proceeded to leave a pungent cloud in bathrooms and locker rooms around the country.

If you are not a young Lothario in the brand's 18-to-24-year-old target audience or an adolescent boy hungry for his first sniff of manhood, or a young woman fending off their advances, then in all likelihood you are unaware that Voodoo is one of Axe's eight different scents and no longer simply a religion of spirits and fetishes. Voodoo is vaguely sweaty, somewhat powdery and reminiscent of the aroma that wafted off your grandmother's dressing table. A week after it was spritzed on a piece of white note paper, it's as odorous as ever.

Apparently boys like that.

Axe's presence has become unavoidable. It has become a dominant brand in the men's deodorant market. It has inspired imitators. It cannot be ignored.

The Axe brand is owned by Unilever, the mammoth international consumer products company that produces everything from Helfmann's mayonnaise and Slim-Fast shakes to Surf laundry detergent. A version of Axe, under the brand name Lynx, was launched in France in 1983 and was soon perfuming much of Europe and Latin America. Axe was introduced in the United States in 2002; much to the chagrin of anyone with olfactory memories of a 1980s dance club after the lights came up and everyone stopped doing the cabbage patch.

Axe is not merely a deodorant to be rolled on sparingly under the arms, nor a cologne to be dabbed behind the ears, on the wrists and other pulse points. The rise of Axe signals the birth of a new category in men's grooming: body deodorant. Axe is a cologne with stink-prevention properties.

It is meant to be sprayed all over the body with the exuberance that might be used to apply Deep Woods Off!, and anecdotal evidence suggests that young men have been dutifully following the package instructions: "Just hold can 6 inches from your body and spray all over, including your chest, neck, underarms--anywhere you want to smell great." Indeed, some boys must want to smell really, really great. From about 50 yards away.

Over two years, Unilever has spent more than $100 million advertising Axe, according to the trade journal Advertising Age. The message of that advertising has essentially focused on one idea: Wear Axe, get girls. Not just one girl, but many, many girls. In the desperately optimistic tradition of Hai Karate commercials or Tone Loc's "Funky Cold Medina," Axe ads suggest that if a guy spritzes on a lot of Voodoo, priced at $4.99 for a four-ounce can, he will attract a stampede of women. Because there is nothing like playing to a young man's insecurities when it comes to the ladies, Axe has been a tremendous success.

"Girls want guys to smell clean and be groomed. The point is (guys) feel more confident," says Kevin George, Unilever's director of marketing for U.S. deodorants. Axe "provides them with the confidence to go out and ask a girl for her phone number, to get those digits."

George has been part of the Axe team since its U.S. launch. He speaks with a permanent chuckle embedded in his voice, but without a hint of irony. There is not a shred of self-doubt as he boils down the "universal truth" about men: They want to meet "girls, girls, girls."

To market Axe, street teams went to college campuses and handed out thong underwear, printed with an Axe Web address, to young men. Thongs were surreptitiously slipped into dryers at nearby laundromats--to be found, it is hoped, by single, young men and not jealous girlfriends. Axe has sponsored singles parties.

There are advertisements on the brand's Web site in which a woman's bare back is imprinted with the shape of a hanger or an elevator key pad or a steering wheel or anything else she might have been smashed up against during spontaneous canoodling or going-all-the-way. The tag line: It can happen anywhere. The Axe Effect.@

"I love my job!" George says. "You will have to drag me kicking and screaming from this job."

In Unilever's deodorant division, Axe already is the No. 1 seller, surpassing sales of the company's traditional brands: Degree, Dove and Suave. And in the close fight for supremacy in the more than $1 billion world of men's deodorants, Axe rose to No. 1 in 2004, surpassing Right Guard and Old Spice, according to A.C. Nielsen Corp. So far this year, it has slipped to No. 2, behind Old Spice.

Axe's success has inspired other companies to grab for a piece of that exceedingly smelly market. Last year, Old Spice introduced Red Zone deodorant body spray. This year, Gillette unveiled Tag. An advertisement for Tag in the May issue of Cargo magazine shows a young man with dirty blond hair wearing a plaid shirt--and what is dangerously close to a puka-shell necklace--being tackled by an entire women's volleyball team.

The success of Axe benefited from a fragrance "Nose"--the scent industry's professional interpreters of the arcane language of fragrances. Axe's Nose is the same sniffer who helped concoct such prestigious Calvin Klein scents as Obsession and Eternity.

And it was helped by the mundane fact that, in technical deodorant-speak, everyone considered the United States a "stick market."

"Aerosols--that big, bug-spray-looking can--were in decline," George says. "We spent a lot of time in front of our target audience and we realized: That generation hadn't thought of aerosols as a bad thing. They looked at it as a new form. They didn't have any baggage associated with the aerosol market." (Who could have imagined that aerosol deodorants came with issues?)

"This was a very functional market, the deodorant market," George says. "Everybody was truly offering the same thing: stop odor and wetness, stop odor and wetness." Axe had the audacity to be an aerosol that promised to do more.

There are eight Axe scents: Touch, Essence, Phoenix, Kilo, Tsunami, Orion, Apollo and, of course, Voodoo. Each sounds like the name of a fem bar or a star of Wrestlemania.

The Nose was Ann Gottlieb, who has had her own self-named business for 23 years. Her experience had been in the prestige market--the expensive brands sold in department stores--rather than the mass market fragrances. The creative processes in the two categories, she says, are distinctly different. Mass marketers typically come up with a group of fragrances, spread them out in front of a focus group and ask which it likes the best. The scent with the most votes goes on the market.

"It's a system used across the board for deodorants," she says. "It's still used today by companies that are not fragrance-oriented."

Cancer drug shows promise

By Denise Gellene
Los Angeles Times

Genentech Inc. said Monday that its drug Herceptin prolonged the lives of breast cancer patients in two large clinical trials, setting the stage for a new way to treat the disease.

The drug, which is used to treat advanced breast cancer, also showed effectiveness in preventing recurrence of the disease in patients who had undergone surgery for early breast cancer.

"This is a major advance for many thousands of women with breast cancer," Andrew von Eschenbach, director of the National Cancer Institute, said in a statement.

"This is a major advance for many thousands of women with breast cancer." -Andrew von Eschenbach

U.S. sales of Herceptin could double to $1 billion as a result of the trials, adding to Genentech's stable of blockbuster medicines, said Geoffrey Porges, an analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

"It is highly likely they could have $3 billion cancer products," he said. "They are now set to become the dominant player in cancer treatment for at least the end of the decade."

Genentech has enjoyed a string of successes recently. Its cancer drug Avastin, which is approved to treat colon cancer, has shown effectiveness in treating lung and breast cancers and is on track to have sales of $1 billion this year. Rituxan, another Genentech cancer drug, has annual sales of more than $1 billion.

Investors drove Genentech's shares almost 11 percent higher in after-hours trading. The outcome of the clinical trials was announced after the markets closed.

Herceptin is an intravenous drug that targets genetic switches that spur the growth of breast tumors. The switches, known as HER-2, are present in 20 percent to 30 percent of women with breast cancer. Since 1998, Herceptin has been used to treat advanced breast cancer in patients whose tumors tested positive for HER-2.

The clinical trials announced Monday could expand the use of Herceptin to women with early-stage breast cancer whose tumors have HER-2.

The studies involved 5,500 women and were designed to see whether Herceptin could prevent the recurrence of cancer after surgery. The patients were divided into two groups: one received a combination of Herceptin and chemotherapy; the other received only chemotherapy.

The trials showed that women who received Herceptin had a 52 percent decrease in cancer recurrence compared with patients on chemotherapy alone. The National Cancer Institute, which sponsored the study in collaboration with Genentech, said the result was "highly statistically significant."

The results, which were based on an interim examination of 3,300 patients, were so positive that the agency stopped enrolling patients in the study, which has been continuing since 1999.

The cancer institute did not reveal how much longer the patients lived. More details from the studies, including how long patients lived, will be presented at a medical meeting next month in Orlando, Fla.

"These are extraordinary results," said Mark Pegram, director of the women's cancer program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Early research on Herceptin was performed at UCLA, where the HER-2 switch was discovered.

"When we saw the improvements in advanced breast cancer, we thought Herceptin might work even better as a (post-surgical) therapy," Pegram said. "That was our original hypothesis."

Susan Desmond-Hellman, Genentech's president for product development, said the statistical hurdles set for Herceptin in the trials were high.

"It had to be way better than chemotherapy alone," she said.

Patients in the trial received Herceptin every three weeks for one year. At a cost of $3,195 monthly, Herceptin could add $38,340 to the cost of treatment for women with early-stage breast cancer. Desmond-Hellman said she did not think price would be an obstacle for insurers because the treatment prevented the recurrence of cancer.

LET US HELP YOU WITH SPRING CLEANING!

The English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, is collecting donations for their annual fund-raising tag sale, to be held May 14. If you would like to donate items, please contact Prof. Diana at 5687 or Prof. Brewster at 5332!

Japanese trail derails, killing at least 73

BY BRUCE WALLACE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TOKYO, April 26 — An effort to make up 90 seconds on a train schedule may have led to Japan's deadliest rail crash in four decades, a Monday morning rush-hour derailment that left at least 73 people dead and 442 injured.

The accident stunned a nation where millions of commuters move daily along intricate arteries of train lines whose schedules are tightly synchronized. Japanese media and others speculated that a young train driver's race to make up for lost time had caused the crash.

Rescuers searched for survivors into Tuesday morning, picking through the crumpled remains of the seven-car train that skipped the tracks, apparently at high speed, before wrapping itself around a nine-story apartment building near Amagasaki, northwest of Osaka in western Japan.

Investigators were not certain why the train derailed. But officials said the train had overshot the previous station, forcing it to back up to let passengers on and off. It was running 60 seconds behind schedule when it crashed on a bend.

Two cars left the tracks, rammed a parked car and hit the building, which is 20 feet from the line. The other five cars plowed into the ones ahead, flinging about 580 passengers into a tangle of crushed and bent metal and leaving the train impaled in the building.

Survivors described a horrific crush inside the cars as the train left the tracks and skidded. Passengers in the back of the cars were thrown toward the front "like they were washed away," one survivor said.

"It was like the picture of hell," an unidentified man told Japanese TV after he was freed from the front car.

About 150 of the survivors suffered serious injuries. Three people -- two 18-year-old men and a 46-year-old woman -- were pulled from the wreckage more than 15 hours after the crash. Rescue workers said more people were probably still inside.

The whereabouts and condition of the driver were unknown.

For a country with an enviable rail safety record, the accident focused attention on the complex connections in a transportation system that moves 60 million riders a day.

Critics say the system places punctuality ahead of safety.

Officials of the private West Japan Railway Co. said the accident could have been caused by several factors, including stones on the track. They calculated that the train would have had to be traveling 82 mph, or almost twice the 43-mph speed limit on that section of track, for its wheels to jump the rails. The train was not designed to reach that speed, they said.

Some passengers told reporters that the train was traveling much faster than normal when the accident occurred.

"I thought there were some strange swings, and then the train derailed," Tatsuya Akashi told public broadcaster NHK.

The 23-year-old driver, identified as Ryujiro Takami, told superiors that he had failed to stop properly at the previous station, sliding about 26 feet past the platform. But later it was discovered the train actually went 130 feet past the platform.

The driver had to back the train up to align its doors, and the delay put the train 90 seconds behind schedule.

Takami had been driving for 11 months and had been reprimanded once for overshooting a station by about 100 yards, officials said. There was speculation that he had panicked at finding himself off-schedule because of another error.

Rail officials said that before it derailed, Takami's train had made up 30 seconds of time on the way to the next station, suggesting it was traveling faster than usual. An automatic braking system designed to slow speeding trains was too antiquated to have had any effect on the train, rail officials said.

Japan's extensive rail network runs on a precise timetable that passengers rely on to make tight connections. Riders frequently check train times by accessing schedules on the Internet and from their cellphones.

Studies have shown that Japanese trains are the most punctual in the world, and their drivers work in a culture where being on time is a social virtue. That adds to the stress of their jobs, experts say.

"If a driver creates a delay, it would immediately be reflected on his evaluation," Kiyoshi Sakurai, a writer and critic of Japan's rail system, told Ashai TV. "The drivers are under pressure."

Analysts say drivers are constantly racing to meet schedules and make up for the inevitable delays at stations.

"The structural problem of Japan's railway systems is that punctual operations are the No. 1 priority," said Naofumi Nakamura, a Tokyo University professor and expert on the railway industry. "There is excessive congestion, and a small delay would make an impact on the entire system or schedule.

"One way to reduce the congestion would be to reduce the frequency of service, but passengers would complain because the overcrowding would be worse."

The emphasis on punctuality is not limited to rail transportation.

This month, executives at Japan Airlines, the country's largest carrier, admitted in a report to the government that they had been placing a higher priority on meeting arrival and departure times than on safety.

Japan's transport ministry reprimanded the airline in March for a series of accidents and safety violations resulting, in large part, from time pressures. The national safety board suspended one Japan Airlines pilot for 30 days after he began takeoff procedures on a runway without air traffic clearance.

The airline said he had been trying to meet flight schedules.

Japan's transport system has a laudable safety record. Monday's death toll was the highest in a train accident since Japan's national rail network was privatized in 1987. In 1991, 42 people were killed in a head-on collision between two trains in western Japan.

The worst accident occurred in 1963, when 161 people died in a three-train crash in Yokohama.

But the need to arrive on time has been a consistent feature of Japan's postwar rail system, drivers say.

"For workers in the railway industry, one minute is big," said Tsugio Okunishi, 70, who was a driver on the national railways for 32 years.

"We would get very nervous if we were one minute ahead or one minute behind. It is an occupational habit.

"Even now, when I get together with some of my old colleagues, everyone always turns up exactly on time."

Hisako Ueno of the Times' Tokyo bureau contributed to this report.

Pope prayed he wouldn't get the job

BY DANIEL WILLIAMS
THE WASHINGTON POST

ROME–Pope Benedict XVI told pilgrims from his native Germany Monday that during the conclave that elected him last week, he prayed that he wouldn't get the job.

Meeting with hundreds of cheering visitors in the huge Paul VI Hall at Vatican City, he recounted his misgivings. "As the trend in the ballots slowly made me realize that–in a manner of speaking, the guillotine would fall on me–I stated to feel quite dizzy," he said.

"I thought that I had done my life's work and could now hope to live out my days in peace," he said. "I told the Lord with deep conviction, 'Don't do this to me. You have younger, better candidates with more elan and strength.' "

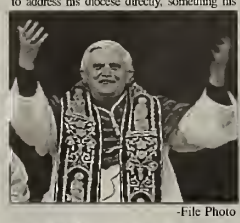
He told the group: "Evidently, on this occasion He didn't listen to me."

Then known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he could have eliminated himself from contention by getting up before any of the closed-door votes in the Sistine Chapel and telling the other 114 cardinal electors he didn't want the papacy. Numerous news reports said Ratzinger had a well-organized cluster of supporters able to round up votes quickly. It took only four ballots to elect him.

In Monday's audience, Benedict suggested he was dissuaded from dropping out by a fellow cardinal who slipped him a note reminding him of a biblical story about Jesus and Peter, the founder of the Roman Catholic Church. In the story, Jesus tells Peter to follow him even to places he might not want to go. Ratzinger had used the story as the basis of a sermon during John Paul's funeral Mass. "Then I had no choice, and I said yes," he told the pilgrims.

The pope entered Paul VI Hall through a central corridor that let him mingle with visitors. They yelled out his name and chanted, "Benedict, gift from God," which rhymes in German.

Benedict told them: "My roots are in Bavaria, and I'm still Bavarian even as bishop of Rome," one of the pope's titles. Benedict has yet to address his diocese directly, something his predecessor was quick to do after being elected in 1978.



-File Photo

Pope Benedict XVI greets the public after being elected although he has reportedly said that he prayed he would not get the job.

Benedict also told a joke in the meeting. Apologizing for arriving at the hall late, he said: "Germans are used to punctuality, but I'm already Italianized."

During a separate meeting Monday with leaders and representatives of non-Catholic religions, Benedict pledged to "continue building bridges of friendship." For the first time, he singled out Muslims for a greeting.

It was his third outreach message since being elected pope last Tuesday. Wednesday, in his first post-conclave homily, he said unity talks with other Christians and contact with non-Christian groups should continue. Sunday, he sent a verbal greeting to non-Catholic Christians, to Jews and to "non-believers."

Monday, he promised Christian representatives he would take steps to unite Christendom. Then he addressed "dear friends from different religious traditions."

"I offer warm and affectionate greetings to you and to all those who belong to the religions that you represent," he said. "I am particularly grateful for the presence in our midst of members of the Muslim community."

Benedict said he was grateful for the "growth" of Muslim-Christian dialogue. "I assure you that the church wants to continue building bridges of friendship with the followers of all religions," Benedict said.

Inter-Christian relations and talks with non-Christian religions were among the works Pope John Paul II's pursued most avidly. As the cardinal in charge of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Benedict issued a document arguing the supremacy of Catholicism. Reports in Italian journals and newspapers said he was unenthusiastic about a series of prayer meetings John Paul held in Assisi with leaders of non-Christian religions that included Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam.

Before Benedict's election, Vatican officials suggested that the new pope, whoever he was, would rethink the outreach to Islam. The officials expressed disappointment that Christian minorities in several Muslim countries had continued to suffer discrimination.

His outreach to Orthodox Christianity met its first roadbleek Monday when the Russian Orthodox patriarch, Alexy II, said Benedict could not visit Russia until the two churches resolved long-standing differences.

Reagan's diaries to be printed

BY SCOTT MARTELLE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In what is likely to be one of the most intimate portraits of the Ronald Reagan White House, the former president's personal diaries will be published next year – though how much of them and in what form is still unclear.

HarperCollins, which earlier this year published former presidential candidate and Republican Sen. Bob Dole's memoirs, bought the rights from the Reagan Library Foundation for an undisclosed sum.

Officials for the publisher and the library said it's unclear whether the eight years of daily diaries – five red-and-tan leather-bound volumes – will be edited into one book or published separately, or whether some of the entries will be redacted for national security and other concerns.

"We can't really determine what will be included until we get in there and take a look at them," said HarperCollins spokeswoman Patti Kelly.Reagan Library spokeswoman Melissa Giller said the former president began the diaries on his first day of office and ended them on his last. One of the diaries went on display this week at the library in Simi Valley, Calif., but the entries won't be open to view.

"We're going to wait to do that until the diary is released," Giller said.

Some of the diary details have made it to public light already, as evidence in the Iran-Contra investigation and a part of the research for "Dutch," Edmund Morris' biography of Reagan.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Regarding the comments in the April 25th edition on faculty being a "no show" at the torture discussio organized by the Issues in Vietnam class; please do the math.

Although the session was open to students and faculty alike, the target audience of the session was in all likelihood the student body.

The class professor and panel that were present represent almost 2.5% (0.024) of the faculty based on the 21:1 faculty to student ratio. They also represet almost ten perfect (0.9) of the total present at the discussion.

The forty students in attendance represent approximately one percent (0.013) of the student body.

The numbers suggest that as a percentage more than twice as many members of the faculty attended as did the student body.

- Jim Raschilla
Professor

To the Editor:

In the April 18th issue of The Voice, Haley Paton had a column entitled "To the Point." She missed the point totally. Cardinal Law did not "lead" the Pope's funeral Mass.

- Rev. John T. Dean

To the Editor:

People need shoes. It's gross when they don't wear them. It's come to our attention that a certain male student doesn't seem to agree with this sentiment.

It's one thing to walk around barefoot in a park on a nice sunny day or something, but it is quite another to prance around Subway, the library, and classroom buildings sans footwear. Now this goes WAY beyond simply being disgusting; it's a matter of sanitary concern. Not only do we not enjoy looking at his grody, hobbit-like, pasty-white feet, but we'd also like to not catch some funky foot fungus from the guy if at all possible.

So in closing, isn't there a health code against this sort of thing? In our opinion, WSC's motto should be "no shirt, no shoes, no education."

- Laura Jackson
Class of 2006
- Heather Woife
Class of 2007

To the Editor:

I was so furious after the last article written about "cops" so
I had to make a phone call:

"December 22, 1999," Sergeant George Girard responded. A day he will never forget, along with the rest of Holyoke, MA. "You 're never going to forget something like that," Sgt. Girard said. He went to High School with him, and worked with him until the day of the tragedy. He was a "good person who did good things".

On Dec. 22, Patrol Man John Dinapoli responded to his last call. Girard recalls the entire incident. There was a report of a disturbance, and Dinapoli responded in his unmarked cruiser. He noticed an individual walking down the street and decided to follow him. The individual then positioned himself behind an apartment
building, followed by firing "numerous times into the vehicle," said Girard.

Sgt. Girard was able to recall the incident like it was yesterday. You never realize it could happen to a friend, he said.

A couple of weeks ago an article was written titled "Let's Talk About Cops". Yes, I haven't always said the nicest things about police officers, especially after being pulled over when I'm in a rush, or receiving an expensive speeding ticket, but I feel they deserve a lot more respect than that article gave them.

Sgt. Gerard is a wonderful guy, who has worked for the Holyoke Police Department for 32 years. I don't see him often, but when I do he is always smiling. A friend of my fathers, as well as a friends dad, I respect him as a person, and as a police officer.

Police officers are not "pigs" and "oinkers" like written in the article published a couple of weeks ago. I still look forward to seeing my old D.A.R.E. officer, Officer Dave of the Holyoke Police Department, whenever possible. He is far from a police officer who does nothing for the community, like said in "Let's Talk about Cops".

Officer Dave and I will not see each other for a year, and he will still greet me with a huge hug every time we run into each other. He still remembers my friends from when I was in sixth grade, and never fails to ask how they are.

The point of this article is to show that I firmly disagree with the previous one written about police officers. Generalizing every police officer is wrong, just like generalizing every student at Westfield State is wrong. Not all of us are pot heads or alcoholics. Some of us work hard, and have ambitions. I would be very disappointed if a police officer wrote an article stereotyping students in that way, especially because it's far from the truth.

I think if everyone thinks hard enough, I bet they can think of
their own Sgt. Girard, Officer Dave, and unfortunately, I bet many can relate to the tragedy Holyoke faced that faithful day in 1999. So I was just wondering if the author of "Let's Talk About Cops" puts his life on the line when he goes to work everyday?

- Laura Shaw

WE'VE GOT ONE MORE ISSUE LEFT THIS YEAR SO SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE!

Can't think of anything to say right yet? Think about it over the summer and come to our general interest meeting next fall (there will be plenty of signs.) We're looking for TONS of new columnists so start using those noggins!

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

I sure feel pretty

"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Last Thursday I was sitting in my late-night British Literature class. While the professor was talking, a large, hairy bumblebee flew in the window. By "large" I mean half the size of my thumb, and by "hairy" I mean covered in hairs. By "bumblebee" I mean, you know, it had a stinger and wings and stuff; Compound eyes and blurry color vision.

I saw this thing, this bee, whose bodyweight couldn't be even a ten-thousandth of my own. I saw this thing, large for its kind but smaller than I was for much of my tenure in my mother's womb. I saw this buzzing fuzzy bug and I froze.

Froze, except for my eyes. I watched its seemingly random trajectory as it bumbled around the room, bumping into fluorescent lights. I was in terror.

No, I'm serious. No one really likes bees, except for those scary guys on Ripley's Believe it or Not, but I'm terrified of them. As a child, I made the mistake of upsetting a paper wasp nest, and well, you get the idea. I was scared, in a word, shitless. If given the option, I might have dove out of the third-story window rather than let it land on my arm.

Now, I'm not allergic to bees. I knew if this thing should sting me, I would not die. I would not have to go to the hospital. But I knew that it would hurt if I were stung, hurt horribly. But the risk of being stung was nothing compared to the risk I take every time I enter a car. I could die. I could be crippled. But that bee scared me more than any too-fast ride in a drunk friend's car.

I start with this bee deliberately. Shortly after the aforementioned class, I noticed an essay pinned on the bulletin board outside the classroom. It was a response to a column I wrote concerning judicial intimidation and a couple senators.

Now, I've said some wacky things in my time at The Voice. I've come out against Meagan's Law, the "war on terror(ism?)," and advocated forced breeding pimgrams. I've spoken vocally (and earnestly) in favor of gay marriage, cannibalism, and necrophilia. As such, I was most surprised to learn that, of all things, it was a pot shot at a couple senators, one of whom is humorously riddled with corruption charges and hasn't read past the first noun phrase in the Bill of Rights, that provoked my first hate mail.

Equally shocking was the hate "mail" itself. It was, you see, spell-checked. And proofread. Clearly, I was dealing with a foe of Iago-esque stature- a veritable Enkidu to my Gilgamesh. Equally disturbing to the care with which this essay was prepared was the obvious skill of the writer. Content (which I'll touch upon shortly) aside, this person could write. Not the best writing I've encountered (neither is my own), but this is clearly an intelligent, thoughtful person who knows how to convey it's feelings on paper. I smiled, knowing Emily would be jealous that I got the smart hate mail.

A few things of note merit public response, both for their relevance to interesting topics, and, well, my personal whimsy:

First, this intelligent, carefully written letter was almost completely ruined at the end by the simple recommendation that I "do us all a favor and get yourself a girlfriend." As a matter of fact, I do have a girlfriend who is an inspired bit of exquisite niftiness sculpted from, I suspect, the very toe jam of splendid goddess. But that is, of course, beside the point. "Get a life/girlfriend/boyfriend" is the battle cry of mediocre minds, and a childish (if faintly Freudian) assumption that all discontent stems from "not gettin' some." My sex life is quite nice, and yet I still have concerns about the world around me. Surely my learned peer who wrote this essay can assent that this is possible, no?

Next, I am attacked for using big words in an attempt to sound intelligent. This is a half-truth, much like the kind you accuse me of. That I am being preached to about vocabulary misconduct by someone too lazy to look up the word "ellipse" we can overlook. My "superfluous wordiness" as it is called, has reasons as manifold as your own logical iniquities.

First and foremost: I love language. Pretentious and pompous perhaps, but I honestly love my native tongue. The fat, illusory self-importance of adverbs, the weighty majesty of the perfect verb. These things are wondrous to me. Playing with language by throwing in "big words" spices it up. Sure, I could stick with salt and pepper and get my point across, but why not throw in some curry powder or basil? It's not that I'm smarter than you because I use these words; it's that I'm more entertaining. When I play with these obviously extraneous phrases, it's to engage in a little game of linguistic chess with my reader. No superiority is implied, just a pleasant challenge to follow my otherwise banal point.

"Big words aside, there's a fairly small one I want to note (although it's been noted before): I AM NOT A JOURNALIST."

Second: "Extraneous" is not the same as "unneeded." It implies an actual surplus. "Sesquipedalian" is not the same as "wordy." "Loquacious" is not the same as "talkative." Each and every word in the English language has a unique connotation; it has a flavor and context wholly unique to it. "Breasts," "boobs," and "tits," while used to describe the female mammories, are not the same word, and they don't elicit the same response. I choose my words with modest care for a reason. If you misconstrue my words, then the game has failed. So it goes. C'est la vi.

And to elaborate, there's a level of playful self-deprecation in my pretension. I alliterate and reference Hindu mythology in part because the vary idea of written persuasion is inherently deceptive and self-aggrandizing. No one will ever win an argument because they're right. They'll only win because they're better at arguing. Preaching wild liberalism in a state college newspaper is just sound and fury, signifying nothing (I'll give the credit to Shakespeare that you neglected in your quotation). My occasional over-the-top linguistic arrogance is not intended to be taken seriously.

Third: Big words, small words. Blue, then red. Shut up. Don't present yourself as "a simple, concerned student" and contrast with me as "a certain, opinionated "Voice" columnist (whom I admire deeply for his superfluous wordiness and rather roundabout brand of propaganda)." You're not average. You're a pretty damn good writer. You are, for the most part, concise, economic, clear, and build a rhythm. Don't hide being above average just to appear to be connected with the average student/American. Stand up like the arrogant bastard you and I both are and say "I'm here to say something because, damnit, I have something worth saying." When did excellence become a vice?

Big words aside, there's a fairly sroall one I want to note (although it's been noted before): I AM NOT A JOURNALIST. Read that twice. I do not, nor shall I, write hard or soft news stories. I write opinion columns. I take facts (usually) of some sort and give my read on them. I do not present them in an objective light, nor do I pretend to. As a general rule: if you see someone's picture next to their name in the "Voice," then you are reading their opinion.

Now, for the childish Ward Churchill comment. Let me start by saying that Ward Churchill was fighting for your rights back when you were suckling at your mother's chaffed teat. That said, I'm not crazy about the guy and consider him like a highly educated Howard Stern, offensive and sometimes distasteful, but pushes the line to protect the mainstream from an encroachment of censorship. My correlation of 9/11 to a bee sting was an honest metaphor that perhaps makes more sense in context to my seemingly irrelevant introduction. In a country where 15,000 people kill themselves yearly and 9,000 are murdered (handguns alone), a loss of 3,000 lives to terrorism ONCE is emotionally painful, but puts only a small dent in us arithmetically/physically. We are a nation of over two hundred million. Nine-eleven sucked, but our reaction was no more commensurate with the damage done than my jumping out a window would be to the threat of a bee sting. Metaphors can be shocking without being meaningless provocation.

- Maybe more next week, but 1,415 words is enough for now.

New Shows Announced at The Webster Theater
Visit them online at www.webstertheater.com

Friday, May 13th
Lez Zeppelin
tribute to Led Zeppelin
6 p.m. doors, $10 adv

Saturday, May 14th
Bayside, Lost City Angels
6 p.m. doors, $10 adv

Sunday, May 15th
Badfish - A Tribute to Sublime
6 p.m. doors, $10 adv

Thursday, July 7th
Powerman 5000
6 pm doors, $13.50 adv

Thursday, July 14th
W.A.S.P.
LA GUNS
STEPHEN PEARCY
WEDNESDAY 13
6 p.m. doors, $20 adv

Friday, July 15th
Kottonmouth Kings
7 p.m. doors, $15 adv

Friday, July 22nd
Vixen
6 p.m. doors, $15 adv

Saturday, July 23rd
Buddy Guy
8 p.m. doors, $27.50 adv

Columnist concludes he and cops just can't get along

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

Well, it's been since my article on cops since I sat down to write another column, and now I feel it would be best for me to write in response to a letter to the editor (also featured in this issue on page 7). I am not writing to bash Ms. Laura Shaw, she is a very kind girl and I hope that she knows my heart is with her. I am instead writing a few points of clarification, since I seem to have been misunderstood. And yes, I would also like to dole out some apologies.

Obviously, when I sit down and write a column, I am not looking to make anyone feel better (in most cases), since this usually doesn't help anything. However, as Laura Shaw suggests, I am afraid I did make some sweeping generalizations about police officers. I do indeed have my own "Sgt. Girard" and I suppose this woman would be Sherry, an I.S.O. who can be seen all around campus.

To defend myself, I would like to clear the record about my "calling cops pigs and oinkers." I never in my column (which is currently sitting on the desk next to page 7) stated that cops are pigs and oinkers; I instead mentioned, "I was brought up in a family where cops were... looked at... as 'oinkers' or 'pigs.'" Though the statements admittedly carry heavy stigmas I wanted to give you some background of why I feel the way I do about cops.

The reason something like this must be done is so that my readers know that I am biased in my opinions. I know that not all cops are the same, and that is why I would like to apologize to Roger and Sherry on the WSC Squad. My writing on cops closely parallels the reason that Disney is allegedly so racist. Their writers are middle-aged white men, men who lived through the times of segregation. They must create their characters out of their minds, much like I must create these columns out of my mind.

The beauty of college lies in a statement that my co-father (Mr. Yves Marceau) told me, "people go to college and they create themselves." I have spoken with a few I.S.O.s and police about my column and its tendency to be a "slap in the face" to them and I decided that my column must be readdressed. I hold prejudices, as we all do, and mine are apparently mostly regarding those members of the law enforcement within our nation. The idea now is to realize that I hold these prejudices and work past them.

A while ago, when we went to the Shinedown show, Jessie Spano stopped some police when we were lost to ask them for directions. After writing my column, she mentioned that and asked if I ever would have thought to do the same. I quickly told her that talking to cops is always my last resort. This is true. While cops are here to help the general public, I still do not feel comfortable around them and that is because many of the things I do for fun are illegal. This fact implies that I know the risks of said activities and do them anyway, and I do. I do the activities not out of a genuine need or because I know of no other way to have fun, but because I can.

As for Sgt. Girard, I am sorry to here what happened to him. I didn't know him, and I've never heard about his case. Thanks Hipster, your question there is a killer to answer. For those of you who did not read Laura Shaw's letter to the editor, she posed a question at the end of her letter asking if I "put my life on the line when I go to work everyday." Good question.

Despite whatever feelings the police force and I have toward each other, our place sin society are relatively static. My place is to remain a complacent sheep, following the laws that have been set forth by the upper level administration. The job of the police is to enforce the laws set forth by the upper level administration. They chose their jobs and I chose mine (at least so far), so no, I do not put my life on the line every day when I go to work. Look, I learned something again! Today I learned that the fundamental difference between cops and I is the way we look at humanity. Apparently cops see humans as being worthy of protection, whereas I see them worthy of destruction (please note: I am once again making a sweeping generalization. I love lots of people, just not what we do to the planet). See you next week, it'll be the last you'll here from me in a while...

Presenting Mr. Courtney Hall 2005!

Above: Ryan wood shows off his swimwear and accessorizes with an adorable beach tote.
Below: Tim O'Rico skates on stage to wow the audience with his ode to the 80's.

Freshman Kellen Curcuru was crowned this years Mr. Courtney Hall on Monday, April 25 in Dever Auditorium. Kellen wowed the judges with his talent of cheerleading stunts and won everyone over with his bright smile.

Third place was awarded to sophomore Ryan Wood and junior Tim Repucci got second.

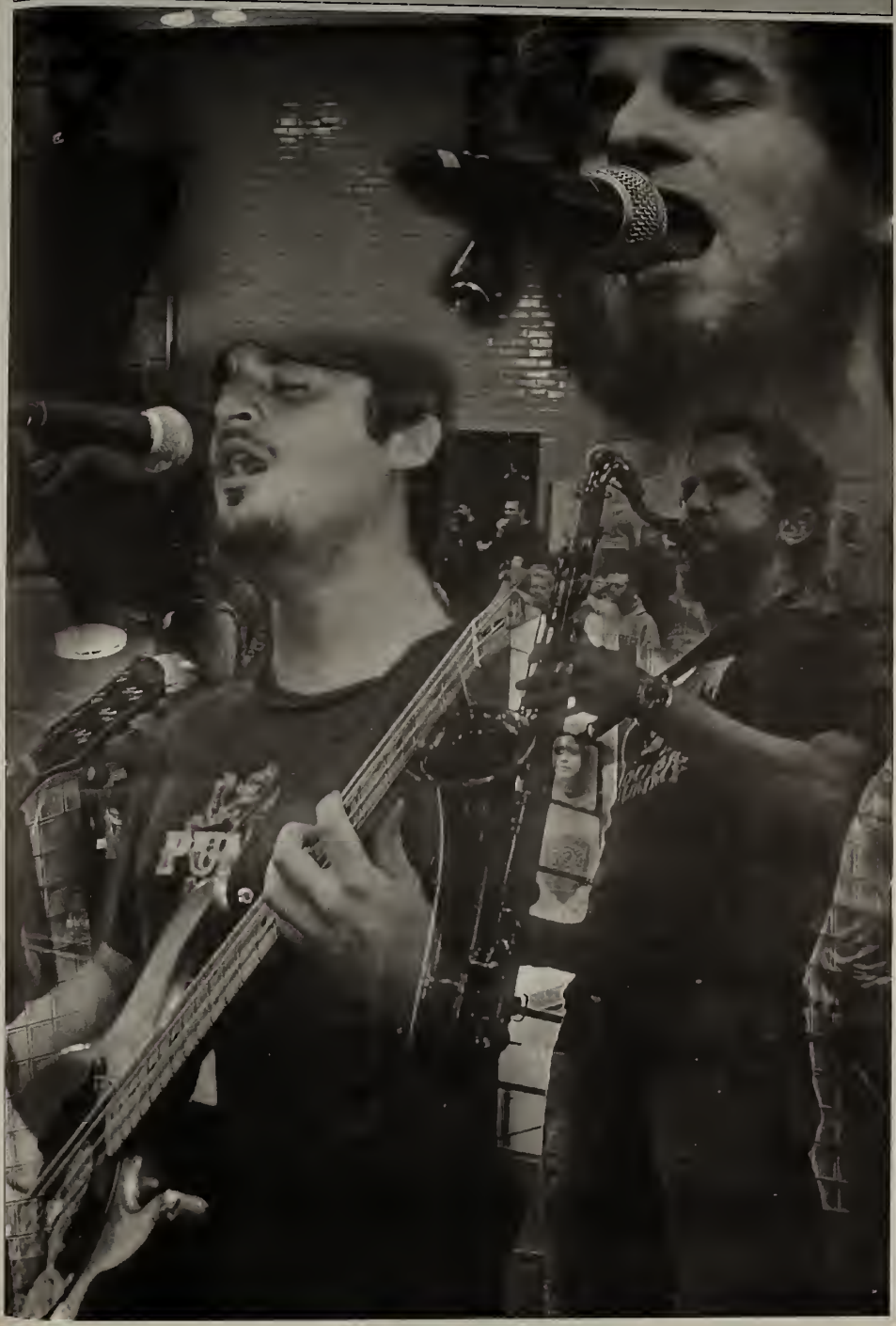
Congratulations boys!

-Photos by Mike Coughlin

Above: Ryan Wood shows us his super 80's style!
Below: Is that the infamous Naked Cowboy? Nope that's just junior Peter Appleby singing "Jesse's Girl" during the talent competition.

Spring Weekend

Photos by: Mike Coughlin & Gisel Cahoon. Montage created by: Mike Coughlin, Photography Editor.



House has an address on primetime TV

BY PETE NORWOOD
A&E EDITOR

Many of us have noticed that there is a new doctor on Fox on Tuesday nights at 9 p.m. This doctor is not like those we have been used to; bland, boring, and very uninteresting. Doctor Gregory House (played by Hugh Laurie) will be shooting another season after the final two episodes of the currently running season are through. This is one medical drama that should never end.

The pilot episode aired on November 6, 2004, and ever since I saw it, I have been a House addict. House may be the best doctor on the entire hospital staff, even though he has tendencies that are somewhat anti-social. From the very first time I saw the commercials for this show, I knew that House would be one to check out.

When House started off on the air, he was simply learning to deal with the fact that he would have to be accepting patients and actually talking to them, trying to solve their ailments. After being threatened to be fired despite his tenure, he finally starts seeing patients in the hospital's clinic.

What kept me captivated during the first few episodes was not so much the action or the drama, but rather Dr. House himself and his personality. At one point, I remember him referring to the fetus growing in a woman's stomach as a "parasite... illegal to remove in most states."

The season quickly heated up though, with the addition of another cast mate, Chi McBride (who plays Edward Vogler). Vogler, McBride's character, is a wealthy business man who made a donation to the hospital of $100 million. With the donation, however, Vogler requested that he be placed on the board committee, earning himself the right to change what he feels compelled to within the hospital.

-File Photo

Clockwise from bottom: Dr. Gregory House (Hugh Laurie), Dr. Robert Chase (Jesse Spence), Dr. Lisa Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein), Dr. Eric Foreman (Omar Epps), Dr. James Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard), and Dr. Allison Cameron (Jennifer Morrison).

Vogler quickly turned his sights on Dr. House, seeing him as a renegade doctor, and an insult to the authority that Vogler wanted to have. Trying to get him on a range of infractions, from not wearing his lab coat to not spending enough time in the clinic, Vogler sought to make House's life in the hospital a living hell. Recently, the power struggle between House and Vogler has been coming to a stunning climax.

It started when Vogler informed House that he had one week to fire someone on his staff, since they sucked so much money out of the hospital's budget. House searched for a way to get out of this, while Vogler gained the alliance of one of House's staff members, guaranteeing him a place in the hospital. Vogler again and again thwarted efforts by House to keep all his staff members, losing the beautiful Dr. Allison Cameron (played by Jennifer Morrison) at least temporarily.

Whether she returns is left up to the continuation of the series. Be sure to tune in, this show's ratings are pretty sweet and I want the show to be long-lived.

Dan Cooper's "look at the movies"

BY DAN COOPER
VOICE REPORTER

The 2005 summer movie season is nearly upon us, and here's a look at some of the more anticipated releases to hit multiplexes over the next four months.

May

Make no mistake about it, the most talked about film for this month is George Lucas's conclusion to his epic space saga Star Wars: Episode III- Revenge of the Sith, taking over cinemas on May 19th. This finally tells how young Anakin Skywalker turned into Darth Vader. The highlight of this film is going to be the epic 17-minute duel between Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin. Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen, and Samuel L. Jackson star.

Other films to look forward to include director Ridley Scott's return to the swords-and sandals epic with Kingdom of Heaven, starring Orlando Bloom and Liam Neeson, hitting theaters on May 6th. This is the story of a regular man thrust into the heart of the Crusades.

Dreamworks Animation looks to continue their winning streak with the story of four animals who break out of the Central Park Zoo in Madagascar, coming out May 27th. The film features the voices of Chris Rock, Ben Stiller, and David Schwimmer.

Adam Sandler returns to the big screen on May 27th with his remake of The Longest Yard, about a prison football game. Burt Reynolds and Rock co-star.

Finally, The Simple Life meets The Girl Next Door when Paris Hilton and Elisha Cuthbert star in the horror remake The House of Wax on May 6th.

June

movie wasn't enough, superstars Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise reunite for the last battle to save Earth in an update of H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds on June 29th. Cruise struggles to survive an alien invasion with Dakota Fanning, Tim Robbins, and Miranda Otto along for the ride.

Cruise and Spielberg aren't the only director/actor team to reunite in June, as Ron Howard and Russell Crowe join forces once again for Cinderella Man on June 3rd. This is the true story of boxer Jim Braddock and his rise to fame. Renee Zellweger and Paul Giamatti co-star.

Warner Bros. and director Christopher Nolan try to revive the Batman franchise on June 17th with Batman Begins, starring Christian Bale as the Caped Crusader. This is the origin story never told in the other movies. Michael Caine, Katie Holmes, Morgan Freeman, and Liam Neeson co-star.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, widely regarded as two of the sexiest stars in Tinseltown, are husband and wife assassins-for-hire assigned to kill each other on June 10th in Mrs. & Mrs. Smith.

Finally Nicole Kidman has Will Ferrell Bewitched in the movie version of the classic TV show, flying into theaters June 24th.

July

While Batman gets his shot at glory in June, July belongs to the Fantastic Four, hitting theaters on July 8th. Jessica Alba, Michael Chiklis, and Ioan Gruffudd star in adaptation of the classic comic book.

-File Photo

Poster Art for May 19th's Star Wars Episode III: The Rise of the Empire.

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton invite to visit Willy Wonka on the 15th with the release of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, based on the classic childrens' book by Roald Dahl.

Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson invite you to join them on The Island on July 22. They play clones out to save their lives in director Michael Bay's sci-fi thriller.

Jamie Foxx and Jessica Biel try to prevent WWIII in Stealth, hiting theaters on July 29th.

Finally, Matt Damon and Heath Ledger are out to stop the ultimate evil and save a village's girls in The Brothers Grimm, also due out on the 29th.

August

Another popular video game is brought to life on August 5th as The Rock stars in Doom. The Rock trics to stop evil mutants from destroying everything in their paths.

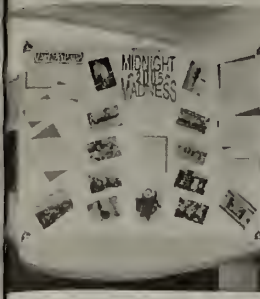
Another classic TV show gets a film adaptation as The Dukes of Hazzard propels into theaters on the 5th. Johnny Knoxville, Sean William Scott, Jessica Simpson, and Willie Nelson star in this modern day update of the adventures of the Duke gang.

On August 26th, a group of explorers try to survive The Cave, starring Morris Chestnut and Piper Perabo.

Kiera Knightley becomes a bounty hunter-for-hire on August 19th in the true story of Domino. The film also stars Christopher Walken, Lucy Liu, and Mena Suvari.

Finally, Kate Hudson tries to discover the secret behind The Skeleton Key on August 12th. She finds a key the opens every door in her house, only to discover a horrifying secret.

These are just some of the films being released this summer. One thing is certain, it should be a fun time at the movies this summer.



Westfield State College senior Jay Jeffrey displays his Midnight Madness project that he will be presenting at the NCAA Leadership Conference in late May in Orlando, Fla. Jeffrey, a Westfield State soccer player, was one of four NCAA student-athletes chosen nationwide to present his self-directed leadership project to this year's conference attendees. The idea for his "give back to the college community" project originated from Jeffrey's attending last year's Leadership Conference. Jeffrey's report on the project is published below.

Photo By Mickey Curtis

Midnight Madness At Westfield State

by Jay Jeffrey

Upon returning from the NCAA Leadership Conference, I reviewed the student-athlete culture at Westfield State College and found there were not enough activities to bring the students as well as the athletics department together. To tackle this issue, my Life Skills coordinator and I came up with the idea of Midnight Madness. This was the perfect year to start an annual event with the opening of our new $18 million dollar athletic field house. Our main objective for the event was to increase the cultural atmosphere of Westfield State College.

At 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2005, Westfield State College kicked off the first Midnight Madness event in its new Woodward Center complex. The event took approximately four hours with the main attraction a 3-on-3 tournament because of our extensive intramurals basketball league. Sixteen teams participated in five games apiece and two undefeated teams played for the championship at midnight.

Halfway through the event, we brought everyone to the bleachers and introduced the winter varsity sports teams, which threw t-shirts into the crowd. Throughout the event, the football throwing competition and three legged races were a big hit with the students who were not participating in the basketball tourney. In between basketball games, two students competed in a 3-point shooting contest against the Westfield State vice-president of student affairs and our athletics director.

We also had the rock climbing wall open and a squishy ball throwing competition. These two activities were added the day before and ended up being the biggest crowd pleasers. Overall, the event was a huge success for the culture of Westfield State. As the athletics director stated, "It was a great community-building event and the diversity of the 700 students participating was phenomenal."

Even though just about everything went smoothly, I believe we could have done a better job of organizing the 3-on-3 basketball event so there would not have been as much lag time between games. The event also was a success due to the 50 volunteers from Westfield State's sport promotion class, athletic teams, and student government.

To accomplish such an overwhelming event, I was able to use volunteers from many different areas, including: the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB), the Student Government Association, varsity athletics teams, work study students, resident directors, the residential life department, the athletics department, intramurals, and the Westfield State administration.

The main contributor for the event was the SAAB, consisting of approximately 40 athletes who went into the community and received donations from local businesses for prizes. The prizes varied from gift certificates and Westfield State College apparel to Midnight Madness t-shirts. The SAAB members and sports promotion students organized and worked all of the activities that were offered during the night. To market the event, we hung posters/flyers around campus and the directors of each residential hall informed all of their students. All of the people involved agreed to make this an annual campus-wide event. But the ultimate short-term goal was to increase the student-athlete culture/diversity and to get all students to have a fun time away

Softball Sweeps MCLA

NORTH ADAMS – The Westfield State softball team swept a doubleheader from MCLA, 3-1 and 12-4, in conference games on April 26.

The Owls improved to 6-4 in the conference with key doubleheaders remaining with Framingham State and Salem State.

Westfield won the opener, 3-1, backed by one-hit pitcher from senior Leah Peterson, who also went the distance in Game Two. Peterson allowed a first-inning run and struck out eight.

Westfield scored single runs in the second, third and fourth innings, two coming on sacrifice flies by Liz Oliveira and Emily Tangney. Sophomore Lindsey Adams had the other RBI.

The Owls collected 10 hits. Amanda Fregeau was 3 for 4 and Peterson and Beth Garfield both rapped two singles.

In the nightcap, Westfield trailed 3-2 before erupting for five runs in both the fifth and sixth innings. Senior third baseman Casey Greggo was 2 for 3 with five RBI; she rapped a two-run single in the fifth and slugged a three-run homer in the sixth and final frame.

Oliveira was 2 for 4 with three RBI and Peterson was 2 for 3 with two runs scored.

Owls Split With MCLA

NORTH ADAMS – The Westfield State baseball split a doubleheader with MCLA in conference action April 26. The Owls (12-18, 4-6) fell in the opener, 10-5, then took the second game, 8-6.

Home runs by Troy Ferguson, Pat Jaehnig and Jay Brown, along with a first-inning two-run triple by Brett Ford, powered the Owls in the nightcap.

Ferguson swatted a two-run circuit shot in the second to stake the visitors to a 4-0 lead. MCLA responded with three runs in the third inning. The Owls scored four times in the decisive fifth inning. Jaehnig blasted an opposite-field two-run homer and Brown immediately followed with a solo shot.

Brown was 3 for 4 and Ferguson was 2 for 5 with two runs scored. Jay Hardell was 2 for 2 with two runs scored.

Winning pitcher Derek Anghilante went the distance, allowing 10 hits and two walks and striking out four.

In the opener, Westfield led 3-2 after three innings, but MCLA scored nine runs in its final three at bats, including a five-run uprising in the fifth.

The Owls were outhit, 14-13. All 13 of Westfield's hits were singles while the Trailblazers ripped two homers and four doubles.

Ferguson was 3 for 4 with an RBI. Collecting two singles apiece were Justin Parr, Shawn Geary, Ford and Matt Tirrell.

The Westfield State softball team has had its share of "bad breaks" this season, as senior Nikki Benson, left, and sophomore Joanna Bruyere are both sidelined with broken hands. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Westfield State senior first baseman Brett Ford just misses catching a line drive during Westfield State's games at MCLA on April 26. *Photo By Mickey Curtis*

Freshman women's basketball player Betty Dely of Waltham has been chosen to represent Westfield State at the 2005 NCAA Leadership Conference May 29-June 2 at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. A total of 334 student-athletes from Divisions I, II and III have been selected to participate in the leadership conference. Westfield State's alternate selection is junior volleyball player

Track & Field Results

Connecticut College Invitational Women's Outdoor Track and Field Saturday, April 23, 2005

TEAM SCORING: 1. Springfield 129; 2. Coast Guard 110; 3. Connecticut College 106; 4. WPI 98; 5. Worcester State 77; 6. WESTFIELD STATE 54; 7. Salve Regina 44; 8. Mass Dartmouth 41; 9. Western Conn. 25; 10. Pace 16; 11. Roger Williams 4; 11. Vassar 4; 11. Fairfield 4.

FIRST: Tesse Donoghue, high jump, 5-1; Tessa Donoghue, triple jump, 37-3.

SECOND: Nicole Varteresian, discus, 92-5.

THIRD: CC Costello, javelin, 113-5.

FOURTH: Erin Coburn, hammer, 110-5.

FIFTH: Kristin Bodner, 5000, 20:42.92; 4 x 100 Relay (Kately Kervin, CC Costello, Kristin Pellegrinelli, Tessa Donoghue) 53.92.

SIXTH: Kateiyn Kervin, long jump, 14-2 1/2.

SEVENTH: CC Costello, discus, 78-1.

EIGHTH: Jenn Davis, long jump, 13-8; Timily Henrickson hammer, 99-1.

Connecticut College Invitational Men's Outdoor Track and Field Saturday, April 23, 2005

TEAM SCORING: 1. Coast Guard 128.5; 2. Springfield 110; 3. WESTFIELD 96; 4. Eastern Connecticut 86.5; 5. WPI 85; 6. Connecticut College 60; 7. Mass Dartmouth 57; 8. Naval Academy Prep 30; 9. Worcester State 26; 9. Southern Connecticut 26; 11. Vassar 12; 12. Pace 9.

FIRST: Shawn McCorquodale, long jump, 21-7; Chris Flynn, triple jump, 41-6; Peter King, discus, 137-8.

SECOND: Matt Shannon, long jump, 20-5; Peter King, shot put, 49-6; Peter Bergeron, javelin, 181-1.

THIRD: Eric Kelly, 100 hurdles, 16.2; Drew Soltysiak, javelin, 165-7.

FIFTH: 4 x 100 relay (Craig Skribiski, Eric Kelley, Ben Butterfield, Jacques More), 45.03; Matt Shannon, high jump, 6-1; Dave Bergerson, long jump, 19-9; Rob Byrne, shot put, 43-1.

SIXTH: Kyle Lawson, 400, 53.24.

SEVENTH: Zak Bitzer, 400, 53.35; Peter King, hammer throw, 123-2.

EIGHTH: Biff Magdalensky, 400, 53.53; Ron Ricciarelli, 110 hurdles, 17.53; Matt Dissell, shot put, 41-9

SENIOR SALUTE 2005

WHERE? Ely Main Lounge

WHEN? Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Stop by between 3 PM & 6 PM

WHY? One stop shopping for Graduation!

Alumni

Caps & Gowns

Raffles

Pizza

Career Services

Invitations

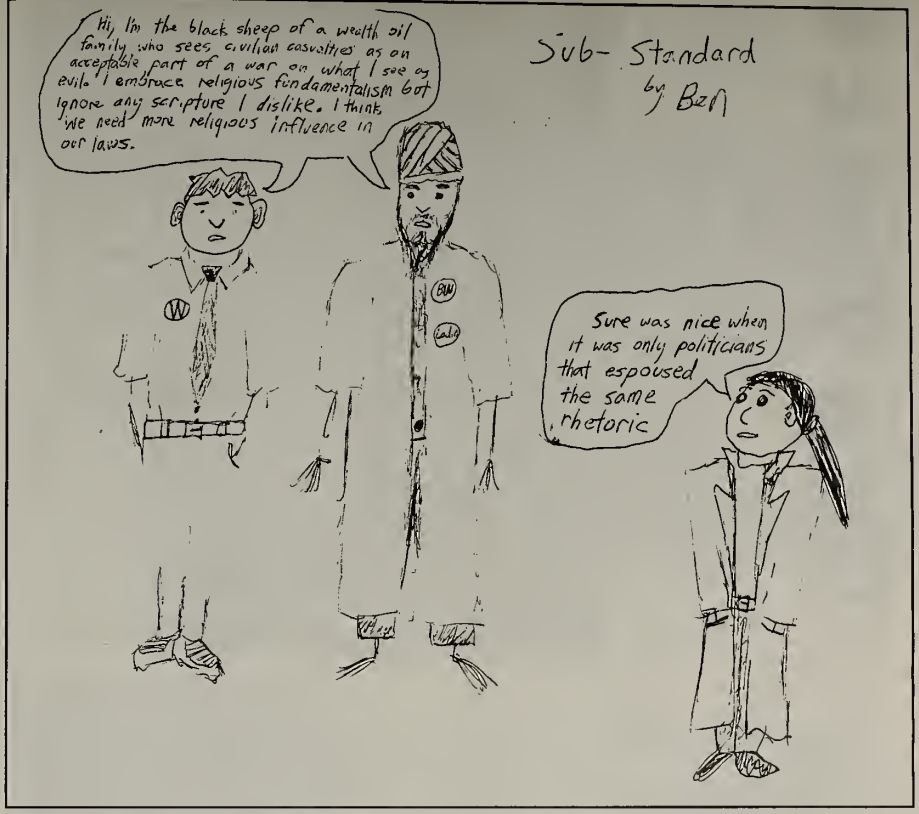
Stafford Loans
Exit Questions

Diploma

Academic Audits

Sub- Standard

by Ben



{Procrastinating}

By Sarah Cagey

TheVoice

Volume X May 2, 2005 Issue XXV

CAMPUS FLICKS!

5/2 - Meet the Fockers & The Perfect Score
5/3 - Collateral & White Chicks
5/4 - Lemony Snickets
5/5 - Ocean's 12 & When Night is Falling
5/6 - 5/7 - Hero & Spanglish
5/8 - The Manchurian Candidate & Spanglish

PERSONALS!

Milk - I think I'm in love with you. Yours Always, Cookie

Hi. My name is Adam Lapon. I'm 6'3" with blonde hair and blue eyes. I am looking for a companion. I like long walks on the beach and candlelit dinners. I live in Scanlon. Let me know if you wanna hang out. -Adam Lapon

Visit the annual Student Art Exhibit in the Arno Maris Gallery! Open April 19-May 11 Call 572-236 for hours and information!

Mon 5/2	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	
Tue 5/3	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30p WSC Wind Symphony Spring Concert - DA - 7:30pm	Commuters Ice Cream Social - Quiotes Dining Area - 1pm - 4pm
Wed 5/4	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm Mid-Week Musical - DA - 3:30pm	Coffee House - EML - 7:30pm
Thurs 5/5	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	Jazz Faculty Recital - DA - 7:30pm	Dinner with WSKB 89.5 - DC - 4pm - 7pm
Fri 5/6	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p		
Sat 5/7	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML -	**Sun 5/8**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

*****Join the Voice Staff!*****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc.
Good Fun - Great Resume Experience - Flexible Time Commitments
No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

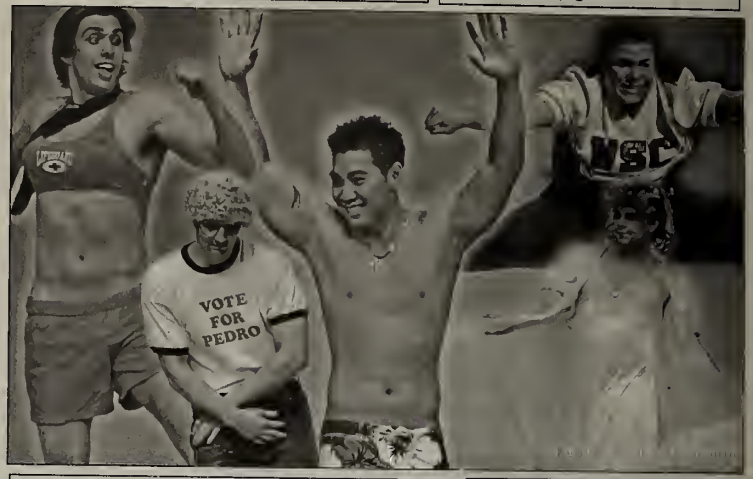
Attention: Clubs, Res. Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

Get a job! College posts summer job listings pg. 2-3

Voice columnist responds to anonymous essay pg. 8



Wishy-washy weekend leaves students wishing for more pg. 10-11

Editor addresses newspaper snafu pg. 2

The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume X | May 9, 2005 | Issue XXVI

Nobel winner sheds light on women's rights in Iran

By Matthew Bernat & Amy Cirrone
Voice Staff

2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi spoke about the importance of democracy bringing women's rights to the Middle East to a packed Dever Auditorium on Monday May 2.

Ebadi, whose native language is not English, relied on Dr. Shahla Haeri, Director of Women's Studies at Boston University to interpret for the audience.

Ebadi began by establishing herself as a citizen of Iran and also the Middle East.

She said the Middle East's historical lack of democracy and large oil reservese were two major reasons for the events that are taking place over there.

Ebadi likened the large oil reserves to a "point of envy" for the West as well as a "jugular vein" as she stressed the potential catastrophe that would occur in the western world, especially the United States, should those oil reserves be cut off.

"Democracy is necessary," said Ebadi. She explained that people in democratic governments have no need for terrorism because the government is

Nobel- Page 2

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

Shirin Ebadi spoke about the importance of women's rights in the Middle East and the role that democracy would play in bringing those rights to Iranian women.

Photo by :Mike Coughlin

One of the many interesting student works of art on display at the Arno Maris Gallery.

National Student Exchange offers 'something different'

By Steve Bruso
Voice Reporter

Dan Bramley, a junior at Westfield State College, climbed onto the tour boat along with a throng of other people for an island tour of Fiji and the surrounding islands. It was a double-decker boat with a glass bottom and open windows on the lower deck. There were a few clouds in the azure sky, drifting on the strong island winds, and the sun sat high in the sky. It was heaven.

There were about thirty other tourists—mostly couples—on the boat besides Bramley, all from different countries. Tourists from England, Spain, China, and all over the world were together on this island tour. The boat sputtered to life, the lines were cast off, and the journey commenced.

Although the weather was beautiful, the wind caused the sea to become extremely choppy. The spray from the rough sea splashed through the permanently open windows on the lower deck, soaking anyone not quick enough to get out of the way, and eventually all the passengers made their way to the upper deck, where they remained for the rest of the trip. Bramley, along with several other passengers, thought they were going to be sick.

The crew, who were natives to Fiji, walked amongst the tourists, and chatted away with bright

NSE - Page 3

Coffehouses add certain flavor to student life

By Steve Bruso
Voice Reporter

News Analysis

On two Wednesdays of every month, a crowd of students gather in the Ely lounge, the aroma of coffee and fresh-baked bread from Subway filter through the area. On the stage at the front, a microphone stands awaiting student use as one by one, various performers demonstrate their skills to the student body.

Coffeehouses have become an important aspect of student life at Westfield State College, as is evident by the ever-increasing crowds in the lounge.

But what makes Coffeehouse so popular?

Jon Mitchell, an English major in his junior year at Westfield State College, has been going to Coffeehouse since his freshman year.

"I have found that, especially as a freshman with nothing to do, Coffeehouses were the perfect way to meet people and get involved with the campus," Mitchell said.

In the calm, relaxing atmosphere of Coffeehouse, with students sitting back in their chairs, heads turned in conversation with their neighbors, it is certainly an environment conducive to making new friends.

"I met my friend, Margo, at the first Coffeehouse I went to," said Jolene Wagner, an English/Education major in her junior year.

This aspect of being together with the student body, relaxing, and meeting new people, seems to be one of the key things about Coffeehouse.

Coffehouse - Page 2

See this year's Spring Weekend events from a Jewish perspective

Opinion pg. 7

Chingy & The Chariot share some space on the A&E pages. Get an ear full

pg. 11 & 12

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Nobel

comprised of the people ruling it. For democracy to happen tolerance and equilibrium are needed, said Ebadi, then terrorism would decline.

Having said that, she then went into the importance of women's rights in a democratic envirnoment.

Women are the last group to benefit from democracy as seen through history, said Ebadi.

"Women get leftovers, if there are any," she said.

She brought light to the strict laws that govern women in Iran, a country ruled as a theocratic republic according to the C.I.A. world factbook.

The laws of the country are determined by Islamic principles.

Ebadi listed a number of inequalities between men and women in Iran. Among them; the life of a women is worth half of a man's, two women witnesses are equal to one male witnes, muslim men are able to marry 4 women simultaneously, and men can divorce more easily than women.

She said there have been some victories in the arena of women's rights.

In October of 2003 Iran's custody laws were changed so a women can potentially get custody of her children.

"There have been victories, but we need more," said Ebadi.

She ended the speech by calling for international attention to women's rights. "Democracy shouldn't be like napalm bombs dropped on people's heads," said Ebadi. It is not a gift given to people. It can't take place overnight. It must develop. "Women's victories can shorten this road." said Ebadi.

> **"There have been victories, but we need more."**
>
> **Shirin Ebadi**
> **Iranian Human Rights Lawyer**

A question and answer session followed her speech.

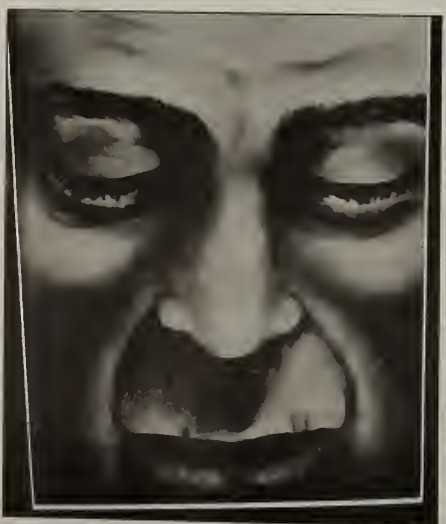
Ebadi was asked if she faced any repurcussions for speaking out. She answered with the Persian proverb, "Can you go into the ocean and not get wet?"

She went on to mention the time she spent in jail, the two terroist attacks she has escaped and the threatening phone calls.

"Fear is instinctive, it will come whether you want it to or not," Ebadi said. Adding that she has learned to overcome the fear and not let it interfere with her work.

Her resume includes being a writer a lawyer a university lecturer and a human rights activist. She holds the distinetion of being the first Muslim woman and Iranian to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

Ebadi holds a law degree from the University of Tehran and currently works as a lawyer and a professor in Tehran.



Another piece of art from the students of WSC.

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

From the Editor's Desk

So it goes...

It's all over. This semester, my position on The Voice, my Massachusetts residency, it's all coming to an end. No, end is too strong a word; change sounds better. Next semester I'm going on exchange to California to get some sunshine.

So this is it, my farewell editor's desk. This is no goodbye Westfield State College column, I'll say goodbye to all those times next year. For now I'll save the goodbyes for my staff.

I was reading through past farewell columns from departing editor's. Those columns fell into two categories. One big long mushy goodbye, or a long history of their involvement with the paper, the latter was generally very boring.

Having read those I told myself to take some time, sit down and write this until i was pleased. But no here i sit hours before deadline trying to pump out something that's not horribly cliché.

Besides avoiding the cliché beast I didn't want to get all nostalgic on everybody. As much as I loved those late Wednesday nights dealing with busted computers and printers that didn't want to work, I'm a little relieved it's time to take it easy.

So I'll just say that coming to know Emily, Lisandra, Pete and Sarah was the best part of the paper this year. It's that simple. How five people with completely different personalities came together and put out a paper every week I'll never know.

You've seen their influence on the paper throughout the year. Pete's numerous piercing adventures found their way into these pages along with his disdain for cops. Emily's singular style of rage and wit always left you feeling something. I envy her for that.

Lisandra always kept it together, I'd be yelling and screaming at a printer that just wouldn't want to print, and she'd calmly tell me to "shut up and calm down fatty." It would always do the trick. And Sarah is still the coolest person I know for her pool sharking abilities and razor sharp sarcasm.

I'm not very good at this goodbye thing. My feelings don't lend themselves to expression easily. So I'll just say; I've never had more fun working with a group than the four of you. I'm going to miss everybody, especially the conversations, whether it was spray painting the office that week before school, at 4:30 p.m. shooting the shit instead of working, or a 4 hour car ride to Vermont just to get the paper delivered on time.

It wasn't always pretty but we got the job done. If I could do it again I would have paid closer attention to the journalistic principles that govern the professional newspapers.

However I wouldn't sacrifice the independence and free expression we brought to this campus, for good or ill.

At times it looked like this paper had taken issue with just about everybody on campus. And when that happened we got feedback. To all those who voiced concern or criticism or outright anger to our coverage; is thank you. You're the ones who kept us on our toes, you're the ones who made sure we didn't stray to far and you're the ones who make things interesting on campus. I sincerely mean this. We need people to tell the story of Westfield State College. It doesn't end with me, the seniors, or my staff, it goes on.

So come up next year, say something, you won't regret it.

Coffeehouse

"Coffeehouses are a great way to be entertained," Mitchell said. "People go to be entertained, and they go to see their friends. It's a community."

"Coffeehouses are just a really good way to see students together, out of their dorm rooms, where they can be entertained and just chill," said Matt Curran, President of SGA.

The tradition of Coffeehouse has deep roots at Westfield State College.

"I honestly don't remember who initiated it or how long it's been around," said Andrew Johnson, the Associate Director of the Campus Center. "It's been around at least as long as I've been here, so at least twenty years or so."

For Johnson, the Coffeehouse tradition is all about the students. "My thing is to make sure students have the opportunity for this," Johnson said. "Lots of students like to perform, we've got a tremendous music and theater department, and this gives them a vehicle to perform in front of their peers, for free."

"I think Coffeehouse is pretty important because we don't really have many activities where students can all get together and hang out," Wagner said. "And, it doesn't cost anything either."

For many students, it's not just a relaxing social environment. It's a chance to perform and improve.

Mitchell started performing at Coffeehouses his second semester of freshman year, and since then, he has continued to do so, and enjoys the opportunity. "I love performing at the coffeehouses because it improves my live performance, gives me a chance to have fun with my friends, and spend time doing something I love doing," Mitchell said. "Without the Coffeehouses, I think, most performers on campus would find it hard to have an outlet to let the creative juices flow. As a performer, it is always inspiring to see others perform."

The tradition of Coffeehouses at Westfield State College has also evolved over the years. Musicians have always been the biggest part of the performances, and while poets have performed in the past, they didn't happen as often.

Now, poets have a newer, more recent tradition of poetry reading, which Johnson attributes to the success of Coffeehouses. "The Poetry Slam, put on by Professor Filas, is a direct offshoot of Coffeehouse," Johnson said. "Coffeehouse isn't just for bands, it's more of a catch-all for performing students."

Despite its entertainment value, Coffeehouse isn't just fun and games. "Coffeehouse is a process of self-education. For performers, you've got to challenge yourself and have a good time out of it," Johnson said. "It won't cost you anything, and I've never heard of anybody being booed off stage."

NSE

smiles and hearty laughs, inquiring where some of the tourists came from.

Out along the horizon, tiny islands dotted the Cerulean Ocean, like speckles on a cheetah. Bramley was taking in the whole scene, noticing as he peered down into the water that there weren't many fish, but there were lots of blue starfish and sea-cucumbers, when the crew started gathering everyone together. Each person on the tour had to say his name, native country, and then sing a song from that country. As each member of the tour sang their song, those who were familiar with it joined in. It seemed as though everyone except Bramley knew all the songs. When it came to be Bramley's turn, the first song he could think of to sing was "She'll be Coming Around the Mountain."

As Bramley enjoyed the day on an island tour in Fiji, he thought back on his friends back at Westfield State College, where winter was fast approaching, and thanked God he was somewhere warm.

Dan Bramley, an R.A. in Davis Hall, has had to make the long trek from Davis Hall to South Lot all this semester, but last semester he made a much longer journey; to Australia.

Dan Bramley leans back in his desk chair wearing a blue Sydney t-shirt and blue mesh shorts, remembering koala bears, sunny beaches, dingos, and an unforgettable experience. He stretches his arms over his head, a yellow Livestrong bracelet on his right wrist and a silver ring on his ring finger.

"I did study abroad because I wanted to do something different," Bramley said. "I've always wanted to get away; it was long past due."

Bramley isn't alone in his venture to study abroad. According to Professor George Psychas, the Director of International Education, Westfield State College sends 15-25 students each year to study abroad.

In the 2002-2003 academic year, the number of U.S. students receiving credit for study abroad increased by 8.5 percent from the previous year, setting a record total of 174,629, according to the Open Doors annual report in 2004, published by the Institute of International Education [IIE].

Since the1991-92 academic year, the number of students studying abroad for credit has more than doubled, going from 71,154 to 174,629.

"I had never traveled internationally," Bramley said. "One of the reasons I went to Australia is because it's the farthest away on the map."

According to the Open Doors 2004 report, Australia had 10, 691 students study abroad, which is an increase of 13.1% from previous years. "Australia is extremely popular," Psychas said. "Many students who go abroad go there."

Although glad to have gone to Australia, Bramley regrets that money was a restriction. "I only got to travel the east coast of Australia," Bramley said.

Even though it sounds small, the east coast of Australia is roughly the same size as the east coast of the United States, from Maine to Florida.

Like all things in life, and especially college, money is always an issue, and the study abroad program is no different.

"The school makes it seem like you pay the tuition of the college and housing is different, but that's not the case," Bramley said. "I ended up having to pay $12,000 for the semester abroad, which is about what it costs to go here for the year."

"It really depends on the program the student chooses as to how much the cost is," Psychas said. "But the fees are similar to a semester here, but again, it varies from school to school."

But for Bramley, even having to pay that much money was worth it for the trip. "I maxed out my Stafford loans to help pay and my parents helped too," Bramley said.

Even though Bramley is legally recognized as old enough to make his own decisions, it was still important to him that his parents approve.

"It took six months of arguing to finally convince them," Bramley said. "They hate flying, and I'd be flying overseas, and they had never gone abroad so they were worried because of that too."

What finally won them over? "The fact that I had two friends going with me, that the country is a pretty well-traveled modern country, and that it was-n't at war with anyone were what made them more comfortable with the idea," Bramley said.

When deciding what college to attend while studying abroad, Bramley had some choices to pick from. Students can attend where they choose, but the process is easier and more if the college already has a relationship with Westfield State College.

"If you go to a school that already has connections with Westfield State, then you can still get housing and be part of the college when you come back," Psychas said. "If you go somewhere else, you're technically transferring to that school, so you'd have to re-apply to get back to Westfield State."

"I went to Bond University, which is the only private university in Australia," Bramley said. Bond University is one of the many schools in 37 countries that have relationships with Westfield State College.

At the university, Bramley found himself feeling a bit spoiled: "All exchange students get a single dormroom, and we even had a maid who took care of everything for us," Bramley said. "It was really nice."

While there, Bramley found the university more than helpful in arranging trips and looking to help students. "The school had a travel agent to hook you up with the cheapest everything," Bramley said.

And in addition to helping arrange various outings, the university also announced miscellaneous job opportunities in the area for study abroad students. "They were constantly telling us of a million restaurants that were hiring, in case we were interested," Bramley said.

But like many students going abroad, Bramley wanted to see as much as he could and have some downtime as well. "I spent a few days just lying out on the beach, relaxing," Bramley said. "It was great."

"Any student who can afford to study abroad should go," Psychas said.

Both Bramley and Psychas agree that the study abroad experience is something students should definitely take advantage of.

"I'm so glad I went, the people you meet are unforgettable, and when you come out from the program, you'll find you have friends literally from all over the world," Bramley said.

Voice of the Week

Lisandra Billings

Role at WSC: Future Editor in Chief of The Voice. Party animal.

Favorite part of working for The Voice: Pete Norwood.

Years spent working for The Voice: 2 years.

What will you do different at The Voice next year: Add fashion pages, whip people into shape, add lots of new exciting features.

Favorite Movie: Wimbledon

Favorite T.V. Show: Sex and the City

Favorite Song: This Year's Love by David Gray

What did you want to be when you were little? An artist although I have no artistic talent whatsoever.

Favorite Store: American Eagle

Who's your hero: Matthew Bernat

What would you do for a Klondike Bar: I don't really like Klondike bars. Throw in a Snickers and it might be a different story.

Favorite thing about WSC: My roommate Lindaddy.

Favorite quote: "I'm sorry I ate your chocolate squirrel." -Anchorman

Voice of the week compiled by: Bridget Gleason

Have a safe and fun summer
from your friends at
The Voice

Voices Overheard

What are you going to miss the most about Matt Bernat?

Bridget Gleason
Class of 2008
Special Education

"His incredible stories that make me die laughing and his super cool dance moves."

Emily Engel
Class or 2006
English

"I'll miss his hugs, soda and sweet, sweet smile."

Lisandra Billings
Class of 2007
Mass Comm

"Sometimes, late on Wednesday nights when we were alone in the office, we'd take a break and dance. I'll miss those dances."

Pete Norwood
Class of 2008
Mass Comm

"I'll tell you what I won't miss! I won't miss him staring at my chest every time I tried to talk to him!"

Voices Overheard compiled by Lisandra Billings

Moving Back Home?
Call to reserve your truck or van today.

10% off one-way rentals with this ad.

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Truck Rental

Location
Penske Truck Leasing
30 Fuller Rd.
Chicopee MA

Phone Number
413-594-5186

In Indonesia, villagers take initiative where few women survived tsunami

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA
THE WASHINGTON POST

LAMTEUNGOH, Indonesia--With a flick of her henna-painted hand, the teen-age bride adjusted her gold batik head scarf, opened her mouth and accepted a spoonful of cooked white rice from her beaming husband. Then, as tradition dictates, she returned the smile and fed a spoonful of wedding rice to him.

In a temporary wood house built amid the ruins of the world's worst natural disaster in decades, Saleha and Muliadi celebrated their marriage on Saturday. Theirs was the third in this village--all three in one week. Four months after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated coastal zones in a dozen countries, this fishing village in Aceh province, the worst hit of all areas, is struggling to restore the normal rhythms of life.

As in hundreds of other villages reduced to a fraction of their former populations, three to four times as many women and girls than men were killed in Lamteungoh. Many men in these coastal towns were fishermen who survived at sea or were farming in the hills when the tsunami hit on Dec. 26. But their wives and children were killed by the waves not far from the beach.

Unions such as that of Saleha, 18, and Muliadi, 24, are one sign of the survivors' determination to rebuild their lives and homes and renew their communities.

"It's a good omen. It's like spring," said a jovial village cleric, Marwadi, one of dozens of widowers who is seeking a new bride among a vastly reduced female population.

Here in villages near the provincial capital on the northern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia's northernmost major island where Aceh is located, the coastline is still strewn with debris. But the corpses have been mostly cleared, and tents, government-built barracks and temporary wood houses put up by private groups dot the mud-caked wasteland. People are returning to their villages, brushing aside fears of a repeat tsunami and beginning to rebuild where and what they can.

The Indonesian government last week announced a new agency to oversee reconstruction. A multi-donor trust fund was also set up to handle $500 million in grants, and international audit firms will work with the Indonesian government to try to ensure that the billions of dollars in aid pledged from public and private sources is spent as intended. U.S. officials say that given the scale of destruction, recovery work could not have proceeded faster.

Photo by Ellen Nakashima of The Washington Post
CARE Muliadi feeds his new bride, Saleha, after the third wedding of the week in the village of Lamteungoh, Indonesia.

Many people, however, are not waiting for the central government to carry out its 12-volume, three-year master plan for reconstruction. The tension between the government's desire to rebuild cautiously and people's yearning for homes and jobs has been growing.

"I don't care about any blueprint," said Baharuddin, Lamteungoh's village chief, who had discussed rebuilding with a reporter two weeks after the tsunami, already eager to get to work. Last week, he said in an interview that he was still impatient. "If I have to wait for the central government, it will be a long time," he said.

In fact, Lamteungoh, with 250 people, showed early signs it was helping itself. Five days after the tsunami, the men began burying corpses--500 by mid-February. In mid-January, they built a small community shelter. That spirit impressed representatives of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has given the village $33,000 in project money, paying residents to clean the land and build a community center, volleyball court and garden. Uplink, a consortium of Indonesian and international development groups, provided materials for the 40 temporary homes. Other groups donated, too. The Prosperous Justice Party, rooted in Islam, was the first group to help, providing a canoe and material for a small, temporary mosque. donated $1,500 worth of rice, toiletries, cooking oil and other goods. Pugar, an Indonesian group, is donating eight fishing boats due to arrive in June and financed a one-month program paying people about $4 a day to clean the village. Another Indonesian group supplied a generator and a motorbike.

The pace of reconstruction is uneven. A half-hour drive east of Lamteungoh, the fishing village of Lambada Lhok is building an ice factory, fish market and cooperative store with help from a French aid organization. The fishermen have returned to the sea in boats spared by the tsunami, hauling in tuna that they sell to buy gold jewelry for their prospective brides. Other villages have not much more than some temporary wood houses and a token government stipend for residents of 30 cents a day.

Baharuddin and Marwadi did not attend Saleha's wedding because they were at a meeting organized by Uplink. There, they discussed plans to build 164 permanent houses made of steel-reinforced concrete to be finished by year's end. Uplink would provide the materials and technical advice.

At 2:30 p.m., Baharuddin's voice boomed over a village public address system. "Everybody to the rice field!" he commanded. Men brandished shovels and scythes, donned rubber boots and blue canvas hats, and trudged 100 yards toward the green hills behind the village. This was Day 1 of a 25-day USAID project to clean the village rice field, still littered with metal, wood and coconut tree trunks washed up by the tsunami.

Baharuddin, 49, took a shovel and began to retrieve bones from damaged graves to rebury them. "I believe their spirits will be at peace," he said.

He lost his wife, his parents and all five children in the tsunami, and is still grieving. A sun-bronzed, balding fisherman, he expresses his sorrow in poems. He has hung two on his wall. One is to his wife. "I am alone. Like a boat without a rudder, I am aimless. I would like to find someone to take your place. But I'm afraid that her heart will not be as good as yours."

Baharuddin is eager to repopulate his village. He offered money to buy three grams of gold for the first villager to get married. The money went to Muzibullah, 26, a fishmonger who before the tsunami barely knew Afnizar Munawar, 24. But in the emergency shelter, they bonded over the loss of parents and siblings. Afnizar cooked and cleaned for Muzibullah. "Day by day, we got closer," said the slim, pretty bride. A week ago Monday, they wed.

The men without wives live together now, as many as five to a house. The oldest in each group, seen as the nurturer, usually does the cooking and cleaning. They sleep side by side on wooden platforms, putting up with snores.

Newspapers Report More Circulation Losses

BY RICHARD J. DALTON JR.
NEWSDAY

Average newspaper circulation was in the red again, falling 1.9 percent in the September-March period compared with the same period a year earlier, according to an analysis of circulation figures by the Newspaper Association of America.

Experts said the drop was the worst in a decade. "If you lose 1.9 percent in one year, that's not a catastrophe," said newspaper analyst John Morton. "But if you have been losing for a dozen years, it really starts to add up. Indeed, 1.9 percent suggests that the trend might be worsening."

"If you lose 1.9 percent in one year, that's not a catastrophe. But if you have been losing for a dozen years, it really starts to add up. Indeed, 1.9 percent it suggests that the trend might be worsening."
-John Morton

According to figures released Monday by the Audit Bureau of Circulation for the six months ending March 31, declines at some newspapers were substantial, led by papers owned by Tribune Corp., Newsday's parent.

The drops included: 11.5 percent daily and 8.4 percent Sunday at the Baltimore Sun; 6.6 percent daily and 4.6 percent Sunday at the Chicago Tribune; and 6.4 percent daily and 7.9 percent Sunday at the Los Angeles Times, according to Editor and Publisher, an industry trade magazine.

The audit bureau omitted Newsday's figures from the circulation report as part of the auditor's censure against Newsday for inflating circulation figures.

USA Today reported a slight increase in average daily circulation, rising from 2,280,761 to 2,281,831. The Wall Street Journal reported a slight drop, falling from 2,070,498 to 2,087,091.

But a Newsday analysis of circulation figures compiled by the National Association of Newspapers from various sources shows just four years with declines greater than 1.9 percent, with circulation declining in all but four years since 1980.

Daily circulation averaged 62 million newspapers in 1980, compared with 55 million in 2003, the latest figure from the newspaper association. The decline came as the country's population grew from 226 million to 282 million during that period.

Neiman Marcus sold for $5 billion

BY LAUREN WEBER
NEWSDAY

Neiman Marcus sells $1,000 shoes and $9,500 gowns, but the most expensive thing it's ever sold is itself.

Two investment firms agreed Monday to buy all of the Neiman Marcus Group's outstanding shares for $100 each, for a total price of $5.1 billion.

The two private equity firms, Texas Pacific Group and Warburg Pincus, are buying a leader in the luxury business, which has thrived for the last few years even as discounters and mid-tier retailers posted only modest growth.

Neiman Marcus has posted double-digit sales increases for the last six quarters.

The Dallas-based retailer operates 35 Neiman Marcus stores nationwide and two Bergdorf Goodman stores in Manhattan. San Francisco-based Texas Pacific, whose holdings have included stakes in J. Crew and Petco, and Manhattan firm Warburg, which has invested in Avaya and Manugistics, will own equal shares of the company after the deal clears regulatory hurdles.

A Neiman Marcus spokeswoman said the sale of the company won't affect its expansion plans.

"From every indication I've gotten, it's business as usual. We're moving ahead," said Ginger Reeder, the spokeswoman.

After climbing about 32 percent in the six weeks since Neiman Marcus announced it was considering selling itself, the retailer's shares fell Monday after the deal was announced. The shares closed at $92.96, down 5.4 percent for the day.

Richard Hastings, an independent retail analyst, said luxury retailers like Neiman Marcus can operate more independently as private companies, free from the scrutiny that comes with reporting profits every three months.

Privately held retailers are "not beholden to analysts and shareholders and so they get to concentrate all their attention on the things that matter the most -- merchandising, buying trips, staffing and customer service," he said.

The deal will also give Neiman Marcus more room to take risks on the designers it brings aboard and the way it promotes them. That kind of experimentation spooks investors and Wall Street analysts, since it makes earnings uneven and hard to predict.

'American Idol,' ready for an unflattering close-up?

By Lisa de Moraes
The Washington Post

After beating back attacks by rabid fans and foes over three brilliant seasons, will Fox's "American Idol" be dragged down by the snapping teeth of ABC News and voteforthe-worst.com?

ABC is set Wednesday to run "Fallen Idol," its much-talked-of "Primetime Live" broadcast that, according to sources familiar with the situation, is mostly about "Idol" judge Paula Abdul and whether she coached contestant Corey Clark during the second season.

Fox had not, as of late Monday, responded to any of the questions put to it by ABC News; a Fox rep declined to comment for this story.

Ditto ABC News, which continues to play coy as to what is in its report--a strategy sure to drive about 15 percent more viewers to "Primetime," which is, you notice, not airing in its regular Thursday slot but on the night of the "Idol" results show. That's because it's the May ratings sweeps and ABC is not stupid.

But among the many bits in the broadcast is a message Abdul allegedly left on Clark's cell phone urging him not to respond to media inquiries, say sources familiar with the story, who insisted on remaining anonymous. The sources say the call was placed after syndicated gossip columnist Cindy Adams broke the story that Clark was shopping around a book proposal promising to tell all about his alleged relationship with Abdul.

Also in store for viewers is a look at Clark's telephone records, which allegedly show that he and Abdul spoke often and long while he was a contestant in the singing-competition series, according to some sources.

And, as part of ABC News's deal to get Clark's cooperation, we'll get to hear a portion of his new single during the newscast, one source reported.

As of Monday night, Abdul was standing by last week's statement that she would not dignify the allegations with a response. Her attorney also wrote ABC last week informing the network of possible legal action if the broadcast runs, according to news reports.

Wednesday's "Primetime" also will include appearances by second-season "Idol" contestants who did not make it as far as Clark. They complain they did not get the same help as Clark allegedly did from Abdul, including what to sing, how to look, etc.

Nonetheless, Clark didn't make it much past the 32-contestant mark. Viewers winnowed those 32 down to 12 finalists and, after three of those were voted out, Clark got the hook because word got out that he had been arrested for allegedly assaulting his teen-age sister and then resisting arrest.

The "Primetime Live" report is from producer Harry Phillips and senior producer Chris Vlasto, who also produced ABC News's report on Donald Trump's finances, which aired the same night as the Donald's NBC reality series, "The Apprentice." Vlasto is better known for producing Jackie Judd's report nailing the Monica Lewinsky blue-dress story during the Clinton days.

Wednesday's report also will include interesting behind-the-scenes footage from "Idol." Ironically, ABC News was the invited guest of "Idol" producers during the Fox show's second season; lots of footage was shot for a profile of the show that ran on "20/20" on Jan. 31, 2003.

The "Primetime" broadcast purports to show that Clark became one of the 32 finalists without Abdul's help but their alleged relationship began almost immediately thereafter.

In "American Idol," the three judges, Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell, decide which 32 wannabes get to go to Hollywood. At that point, viewer voting takes over.

"Idol" is the most watched television shows in the country, Tuesday performance broadcasts this season have averaged nearly 28 million viewers and Wednesday's results show snags an average of more than 25 million.

"Idol" is critical to the Fox network's success. Before the third season debuted in January, Fox was in fourth place among the 18- to 49-year-olds whom advertisers pay a premium to reach and the broadcast networks therefore target. After the January debut, Fox jumped to No. 1 in the key demographic group.

If the ABC report has legs, pundits forecast it is unlikely to bring down the franchise. But they speculate the show might sever its relationship with Abdul, although she always tests extremely well in focus groups because, people say, she's caring and nurturing, unlike Cowell, who's been cast as the blunt one, and Jackson, who plays the unintelligible keeper of the keys to dawg-dom.

"Idol" has been plagued each season with attacks on its credibility, launched mostly by die-hard fans who claim they cannot get through on phone lines to vote for their favorite singers. Viewers are encouraged to vote often for their fave at the conclusion of each performance show; the lowest vote getter each week is booted from the competition.

Last year the Associated Press conducted its own inquiry, assigning reporters to join the tens of millions of fans seeking to decide the talent contest's two finalists. The AP reported busy signals on more than 100 calls the team placed from Los Angeles and the home states of the three remaining contestants. The AP team was only able to cast four votes and concluded "beleaguered phone systems, trying to slurp up a tsunami of calls with a straw, can't help but choke."

Ironically, this season there has been no outrage over the voting logjam. Instead, the producers are dealing with something more insidious, a Web site encouraging people to vote for "the worst."

The Web site picked Scott Savol this season because of his lack of charisma and the kind of arrogance that should belong only to a genuine superstar, site founder Dave Della Terza told the Associated Press Monday. Then there's Savol's background: He was arrested in 2001 on a felony domestic violence charge after a fight with the mother of his child and ultimately pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. "How do you promote the guy who threw a phone at his child's mother?" said Della Terza--a reference to 19 Entertainment, which oversees recording and other deals for "Idol" stars.

No one was taking voteforthewors t.com too seriously--it's been around since last season--until last week, when contestant Constantine Maroulis, who had never landed among the weekly bottom-three vote-getters, was axed, while perennial bottom-dweller Savol landed in the top three.

Since then, the voteforthewors t movement has gained steam and the number of visitors to the site has increased exponentially, as "Idol"-obsessed Reporters Who Cover Television spread the word. In the past week, the Web site has been the subject of stories in the New York Post, the Los Angeles Times, Fox News Channel, "Access Hollywood," Entertainment Weekly, MSNBC, E! Online News, MTV News and a slew of blogs, among others.

Late last week, Fox responded to inquiries about voteforthewors t with a very long statement, insisting, "While it is unfortunate that a small group of people are so caustic that they believe it would be humorous to attempt to negatively sway the voting on 'American Idol,' the number of purported visits to the website would have no impact on voting."

It continued: "Until the media started writing about this website in the past 2 days, the number of visitors was practically nonexistent," and, Fox added, some are visiting the site only to urge its creators to shut it down.

"Each week millions of votes are received for each contestant, and based on the tiny number of visitors this site has allegedly received," Fox said, "their hateful campaign will have no effect on the selection of the next American Idol."

Acoustic Springsteen hits No. 1

By Randy Lewis
Los Angeles Time

Bruce Springsteen became the Boss of the national album chart Wednesday as his "Devils & Dust" entered at No. 1 after selling 222,000 copies its first week in stores.

The collection, which is drawing raves from critics, gives Springsteen his seventh chart-topping album, though it sold less than half the 525,000 copies that its 2002 predecessor, "The Rising," did in its first week to debut at No. 1. Unlike that rock-driven set with the E Street Band, the new album is a stripped-down, acoustic affair.

"This is the Alternative Bruce of 1982's 'Nebraska' and 1995's 'The Ghost of Tom Joad,' albums in which he stepped away from the superhero 'Boss' persona and the E Street Band spectacle to examine the gritty, dimly lighted world of characters who have been pushed to society's extremes," Los Angeles Times pop music critic Robert Hilburn wrote.

"It's not the side that has helped Springsteen fill stadiums," Hilburn noted. "But it's just as heart-stirring. ..."

"Devils & Dust" dislodged Rob Thomas' "... Something to Be," from the top slot. "Something" slipped to No. 4 after sales fell from 252,000 to 145,000 last week. Mariah Carey's "The Emancipation of Mimi" held at No. 2 despite a sales drop from 226,000 to 197,000.

The first R&B release from rapper Ludacris' new label, "Disturbing That Peace Presents: Bobby Valentino" sold 180,000 copies and debuted at No. 3.

R&B singer Amerie's sophomore album, "Touch," arrived at No. 5 on sales of 124,000, and country singer Jo Dee Messina posted her first Top 10 pop album with "Delicious Surprise," at No. 7 and sales of 99,000.

Third Elephant Dies After Controversial Transfer

By Patricia Ward Biederman
Los Angeles Times

The death of the last of three elephants transferred from the San Diego Wild Animal Park to other facilities has zoo officials pondering what went wrong and animal-rights activists saying "We told you so."

"It's a sad day," San Diego Zoo Executive Director Douglas Myers said of the death of Wankie, a 36-year-old African elephant that belonged to the zoo. The elephant was euthanized early Sunday at the Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City, after she had arrived Saturday night from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo unable to stand.

Wankie was the last of three elephants to die since they were moved in 2003 from San Diego to the Lincoln Park Zoo over the protests of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and other animal-rights groups.

The activists argued that Chicago, with its bitterly cold winters, was no place for elephants used to balmy San Diego and urged that they be sent to a sanctuary instead.

Peaches, 55, believed to be the oldest female African elephant in captivity in the United States, died at Lincoln Park earlier this year, apparently of old age. Tatima, 35, died in October of a disease similar to tuberculosis.

Wankie's problems apparently began some time during her 1,400-mile journey to Utah.

"She went into the crate without any problem at all, and she loaded up just fine," Myers said. When Wankie arrived at Hogle Zoo on Saturday evening, she was greeted by more than a dozen animal-care professionals.

"They knew there was something wrong," Myers said. "She was down in her crate and that's not a good sign. It's not bad for an elephant to lie down. It's bad when they can't get back up."

Chicago-based Debbie Leahy, PETA's director for captive animals and entertainment issues, said the death confirmed her worst fears.

"We wrote to the Lincoln Park Zoo director and begged him not to take the animals," Leahy said. The group had kept track of the elephants in Chicago, and "it was obvious they weren't doing well," she said.

Wankie's death "underscores the problem of keeping elephants in zoos," Leahy said. PETA wanted the elephants sent to one of two sanctuaries in the country where they would have been able to bond with other females and roam freely.

"These are animals who in the wild would be walking 30 miles a day, and this activity is essential for their health and well-being," she said.

Myers said the three elephants had been loaned to the Chicago zoo to make room in San Diego for seven African elephants about to be killed in their native Swaziland. An eighth was born at the wild animal park in February. Lincoln Park was chosen because it had an excellent elephant facility but no elephants, Myers said.

Female elephants are social animals, so after Wankie's two companions died, zoo officials decided to move Wankie to the Salt Lake City zoo, which has three African females.

But when she arrived she couldn't put any weight on her back legs, said Hogle spokeswoman Stacey Phillips, who watched as 20 veterinarians and others worked through the night to try save the elephant.

The Chicago zoo plans an independent audit of its animal-care systems, zoo chief Kevin Bell said. The zoo will further study how cold affects captive elephants and socialization issues, he said.

The Chicago zoo plans to adapt its elephant exhibit to house its Bactrian camel herd.

"For the foreseeable future," Bell said, "we are not going to bring elephants back."

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I was recently told that people who really care about an issue do something to fix it. So here I am as a senior, about to graduate and there are several events surrounding holidays that have upset me while being here at Westfield State College. For all of the Christian holidays, there are always different events going on for the students but there are rarely any for other religions. It all started when I was a freshman and noticed a Christmas tree in front of Ely and a wreath on Parenzo. Both places were areas that everyone can see, especially the wreath, since it was placed on the front of Parenzo where one first enters the college. This continues to happen every year during the holiday season. I also remember last year there was a "Holiday party" in Ely but the activity was decorating ornaments. For those of you who are not aware, no other religion uses ornaments besides Christianity so it is pointless for them to call it a "holiday party" when it really was a Christmas party. If the school is going to have activities that are for one religion, then they should have activities for all religions.

Secondly, Spring Weekend is being held on a high holiday in the Jewish religion, Passover. It would be the same idea if Spring Weekend were on Good Friday or Easter; that wouldn't happen. So why is it happening on a Jewish holiday? The other complaint I have is that the Dining Commons offers a "special" meal for Good Friday, which is fine, but then they should offer a "special" meal for Passover. Since Westfield State College is a public school, they should offer accommodations to everyone.

Lastly, I tried to use the computer labs in Wilson on Sunday March 27, 2005, which was Easter and they were closed. When I called Public Safety to ask why they were closed, I was not given a definitive answer but I'm guessing it was because of Easter. The man told me that they were scheduled to be closed. My whole point is that not everyone on this campus celebrates the same holidays and the school should not favor one religion over another.

Let the students celebrate the holidays, not the school by closing different buildings and hanging decorations; this way no one feels left out. If all I get through to the students and faculty of Westfield State College is to be considerate of people's feelings and their differences, then I will feel as though I have succeeded in writing this commentary.

- Julie Greenberg-Feinberg

To the Editor:

We are writing in regards to the letter to the editor in last week's edition concerning footwear written by Laura Jackson and Heather Wolfe. We have never been necessarily probarefoot, and proudly wear our shoes daily. But to refer to this young man's feet as "hobbit-like" and "pasty-white" is just crossing the line. We believe that a pair of hobbit feet also belong to the star of a multi-million dollar film and a cute boy by the name of Elijah Wood. Also, some of us can only afford to fake tan our upper body, and by the time we get to our feet, we are flat broke with pale feet.

The next issue at hand is sanitation. If this young man was playing "Danee Dance Revolution" all over our food, we might put our feet down. But we hardly believe that foot fungus is an air-borne disease. Most of us on eampus wear foot condoms, some doctors refer to them as shoes. We would like to assume that by the agressive nature of your letter that you ladies practiee safe walking and wear shoes every day, so tben why would you be worried about catching some "funky foot fungus?" This is just a hunch, but we think it is safe to say tbat there are far more serious diseases that can be caught on this eampus than foot fungus. And if your naked footsies did happen to graze the same tile in the Dining Commons as the Barefoot Wonder, there are ereams for that.

- Christina Schilling
& W. Joseph Cannon

To the Editor:

The Latino Association For Empowerment (L.A.F.E.) held their 11th Annual Diversity Dinner on Wednesday April 27th in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. The Dinner was a huge success. In addition, there were other people that night that were even happier about the dinner. The people at a local Westfield homeless shelter called the Samaritan Inn received all of the food leftover from the Diversity Dinner. They received four large trays and four small containers of shrimp Lo-mien, potato salad, chicken & rice, and cake. The Samaritan Inn is located on 7 Free Street across from Stop & Shop in Westfield.

L.A.F.E. was more than bappy to donate the left over food to the Samaritan Inn. They plan to continue to donate any left over food items from any of their future events. If you would like to donate food items or volunteer at the Samaritan Inn, you ean reach them at (413) 568-3122.

The L.A.F.E. organization wishes to thank the entire Westfield State College community for their attendance to the Diversity Dinner and their continued support in all of their other events.

- The Latino Association For Empowerment (L.A.F.E.)

To the Editor:

Hopefully a student with a basic statisties class will take my tongue in eheek letter to the editor to task regarding the larger pereentage of professors vs. students present at the recent torture discussions. Someone onee said "figures don't lie, but liars do figure."

It was just a tired attempt (very late at night) at humor which apparently missed its mark.

- Jim Raschilla
Adjunct Faculty

A quick word from you know who

BY EMILY ENGEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Hi folks!

Did you really think you were going to end the year without hearing from me? Of course not.

We've had quite a newsworthy year, with events, hard news and line-up changes. I'd just like to give a quick thank you to everyone who participated in any way in this year's newspaper production. Those who wrote letters, articles, editorials, comics and whatever else we threw in here, you're awesome for taking the time and wanting to have your voice heard.

As for me, I'd like to give personal thanks to the following people for sending me letters and such: Jolene Wagner, Laura Jackson, Noelle Berard, Bob Hoey, "Cowboy" Dan, the WSC boob girls, the large, scary dude who almost popped my balloon in Courtney Hall today and whoever else I heard from this year. You provided great controversy, debate and hell, even amusement. Even if you got angry over a disagreement or petty arguments, at least we had interesting things for people to read. So thanks for writing and keep reading and keep involved.

Also, thanks to all the members of the staff that joined early and stayed until the end.

The staff is very much looking forward to next year, and welcoming new students into The Voice's dysfunctional family. We may have our issues, but damnit, we put out a pretty interesting rag, and we hope to get as many people as involved as possible.

Have a pleasant summer and keep your eyes peeled for our first issue in September.

'Til next time ...

The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, are printed as space allows, and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and Department if you are a Faculty Member or Administrator. *The Voice* will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must call or speak to you personally to confirm this).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is, or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at *The Voice* office in Ely Campus Center room C-248 by no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Legalize it!

BY DAN WARD
VOICE COLUMNIST

For thousands of years a very special plant has flourished in lands ranging from Norway to the Equator. It is said to have over 25,000 diverse uses from paints to paper, textiles to plastics, and from foods to fuels. It has even been used to make Bibles. And yet it is against the law to grow this plant. What plant do I speak of, you ask? Cannabis sativa of course, commonly known as hemp. Yes, I'm talking about marijuana. And in the words of Peter Tosh, "hey man you got to legalize it".

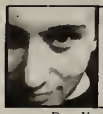
Most myths regarding the personal, recreational use of marijuana are simply wrong. For instance, after thirty years of scientific research, the British journal Lancet found that "the smoking of cannabis, even long term, is not harmful to health." In fact, pot is less of a threat than tobacco or alcohol. Contrary to what the government would have us believe, marijuana is not a gateway drug. Over 70 million people have tried marijuana and most users never use other illegal drugs. If marijuana actually led to more dangerous illegal drugs the United States would have over 3 million heroin and cocaine addicts. Grass, as I like to call it, is not a physically addictive substance. Less than one percent of Americans smoke grass on a daily basis and an even smaller number develop a psychological dependence on marijuana. The true facts show that marijuana is not only safe for recreational use, but also has medicinal benefits. Ganja effectively reduces nausea induced by chemotherapy, stimulates appetite in AIDS patients, and reduces intraocular pressure in people with glaucoma. We must ask ourselves why a country facing a polluted environment and dependence on fossil fuels wouldn't appreciate an environmentally friendly source of textiles, papers, and fuels. Furthermore, we must ask why the same country would rather see cancer and AIDS patients suffer than provide a medicine with no side affects. And why must we continue to demonize one of the greatest crops Mother Nature ever bestowed upon Earth?

"Yes, I'm talking about marijuana. And in the words of Peter Tosh, 'Hey man, you got to legalize it!'"

The United States spends between 7.5 and 10 billion tax dollars a year for arresting and prosecuting marijuana violations. Almost 90 percent of these arrests are for possession only. There are 60,000 individuals incarcerated for marijuana offenses at a cost of 1.2 billion dollars a year. Police arrest more Americans each year on marijuana charges than on charges of violent crime, including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, combined. Possessing a single joint or less is federally punishable by up to a year in prison and a $10,000 fine. The same penalty applies for possession of small amounts of heroin, cocaine, or crack. Convicted marijuana offenders are denied federal financial student aid, food stamps, and welfare, and may be removed from public housing. Former President Jimmy Carter once said that, "Penalties of drug use should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself." Marijuana has no lethal dose, you cannot die from smoking too much grass. Alcohol can kill you in a single sitting and tobacco use will eventually lead to medical complications including cancer. Yet we punish those who use reefer and allow the use of alcohol and tobacco. Even the laws against grass don't deter its use. There is no detectable relationship between changes in enforcement and levels of marijuana use and most individuals stop using or never use grass because of health concerns and family responsibilities, not the threat of punishment.

Most Americans agree that, at the least, marijuana should be decriminalized for medicinal use. Polls conducted by AARP, Time Magazine/CNN, the Center for Substance Abuse Research, and Gallup show that support for medicinal marijuana is between 70 and 80 percent. Legalization would not only save money but make money. One of the reasons the big tobacco industries haven't been destroyed by the government is because of the taxes rendered by the sale of cigarettes. The potential taxes placed on marijuana products could be used to help save hospitals, police stations and forces, fire departments, and schools. It's time to own the truth that marijuana is not as evil as it has been portrayed. It's time to provide relief to the ailing and a harmless substitute for alcohol. It's time to legalize it.

A call to 'arms'



"EXTRANEOUS"
BY BEN GAINES
VOICE COLUMNIST

Dear Young Women,

I write to you on a matter of the utmost urgency, and with the hope that my appeal will not fall on deaf ears. I write on behalf of those who can not yet write for themselves, but whose voices must be heard trumpeted like a choir of angels cracking the heavens' dawn.

What I speak of is a continual, ancient holocaust that has destroyed countless lives before they were given the chance to be. The slaughter of the innocence has persisted for too long, and must stop here, stop now, and stop forever.

By my choice of words, many of you are already seeing the direction I am heading in. Abortion is a "hot issue" in America, and has been for some time. This issue, while intimately tied to the broader horror of which I write, is limited in scope. As such, I will spend but a scant moment or two on it before pursuing my greater plea and proposal.

As I said, abortion is a much-debated issue, with both sides having many arguments for and against it. The most compelling point of contention between the two sides is over the potential manifest in the unborn child.

Now, I will concede to the Pro-Abortion crowd that a clump of 2, 4, or 16 cells does not think or feel. As an atheist, I will concede that this "blob" of cells has no eternal, precious soul. But what you, you "Pro-Choice" euphemists, must concede is that you too were once a blob of 16 cells clinging tightly to your mother's womb. Julius Caesar was once a zygote. Jesus, Gandhi, Hitler, and even the notorious B.I.G. were all once fertilized eggs. Nature took its course, and the man strung forth.

If anything is to be sacred in our secular society of optimists and idealists, it must surely be potential. The possibility for greatness, beauty, wonder, and, yes, evil as well, is the cornerstone of our Weltansicht.

As such, in respect to this potential, we must of course immediately declare a moratorium on abortions. This, I believe, should go without saying, and is but a minor detour on the road I wish to take you on. You see, young women, the choice and the power have always been yours, for abortion and for greater, older things.

"Is there truly that much of a difference between a sperm-starved egg and Terry Shaivo? Both are victims of inaction, though perhaps an unfertilized egg had more potential."

There has been, in modern society and in antique times, a great, mindless massacre against the unborn that predates abortion. Organized religion has had a hand in this, as had many so-called "family groups." Once upon a time, marriage served to lessen the slaughter and prevent the passive destruction of billions of tiny lives. Now, with the advent of birth control and the murderous obscenities born of the women's empowerment movement, sexual politics have ushered in a new dark age in which women, young and old, are killing a prospective child every month.

Yes, what I am speaking of is the dread monster Abstinence, the most repugnant and obscene creation of hatred for the unborn. The ultimate enemy of our newfound Culture of Life is the idea that a woman may, for reasons of vanity, lesbianism, or simple whimsy, refuse sexual intercourse with a fertile male. For each month that passes without fertilization, a tiny potential life is snuffed out.

Clearly you can all see that not only must we protect the unborn, potential humans, we must also protect the unconcieved. The potential exists in all women's eggs for the miracle of life, and we must not discriminate against those who are as-yet unconcieved in their potential any more than we shall condemn the unborn. Sacred is the potential life. Where would we be if Mrs. Lincoln hadn't "been in the mood" the night young Abe was conceived? Do you not see how with idea of "saying no" cost doomed billions to non-existence, starved them of male genetic material until they passed? Is there truly that much of a difference between a sperm-starved egg and Terry Shaivo? Both are victims of inaction, though perhaps an unfertilized egg had more potential.

It is because of this that I write. The change must come in the form of a three-pronged attack on Abstinence. The first prong must be social. College sexuality and MTV are a step in the right direction, but they do not go far enough. Young, egg-laden women: look up from this article. Pick a male, at random if you like. Mate with him. Mate with him each night for a month, in hopes that you will conceive. Should you fail in this endeavor, at least you will have tried. Be open with your procreative mission. Let people know that you're one of the truly committed.

The second prong must be administrative. On a local scale, I strongly urge that Westfield State College declare the recently opened athletic center as a designated mating zone. Support and cooperation from the college is essential. To further the aims of constant mating, I submit that the college should also begin pairing males and females as roommates, with the understanding that nightly mating is expected.

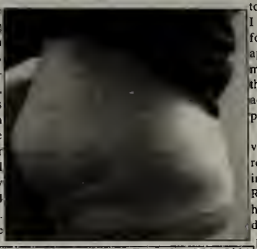
The third prong, which I'll leave to our able-bodied congress, will be the legislation of mandatory mating programs. So as not to infringe upon liberated women's rights, they will be given the option of having their eggs all harvested and maintained by the government should they decide to be non-breeders.

I understand that these radical changes will take time, and there will be many setbacks along the way. Each month that passes sends millions more to their deaths, though, and so I urge you young women to take the first step. Begin a voluntary rapid reproduction program, and wait patiently for us men to bring into the fold those non-compliant murderers. Let every womb be fertilized, and let every belly swell!

Comfortable in her own skin ... Finally.

By Emily Engel
Managing Editor

Jen watches the television from a safe distance a few feet away on the couch. She is currently tuned in to MTV, watching the documentary show *I Want A Famous Face*. This particular episode features a young blonde woman whose aspirations in life include getting a nose job, breast implants and liposuction in order to look more like Jennifer Aniston. The total cost of her surgery is around $24 thousand dollars. Jen watches the TV carefully, and raises her eyebrow at some scenes. At one point a shot of the actual liposuction procedure is shown. The doctor inserts a long, metal tube into an open piece of flesh and starts the procedure of pushing and pulling until the fat is sucked out. Jen hides her face in her hands at this point.



Before: Photo taken on December 27th, 2004

"I can't bare to watch this shit. It truly makes me sick to think that these women are throwing away that much money in order to look like a celebrity," she says. "And you know what the sickest part is? Watching that and knowing that's what the plastic surgeon did to my body."

When we last spoke to Jen in February, she was still in the midst of the healing process and was finally beginning to see results.

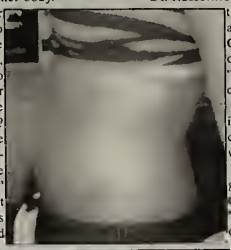
Initially, bruising was quite extensive and the sides of Jen's stomach turned purple and blue. This lasted for about two weeks after her surgery. However, according the Jen, the bruises weren't painful, but "fun" for her to look at and show to people.

Jen talks about how it was difficult to sleep and move around at first. She could not sleep on her stomach, due to needing to avoid pressure in that area. Jen said that was incredibly hard for her, seeing as though she sleeps on her stomach under normal circumstances.

"The healing process seemed to go on forever. I had plenty of follow up appointments to make sure everything was going according to plan."

The follow up visits were fairly routine, according to Jen. Dr. Russolillo would have her lie down and would press, pinch and pull to make sure everything was settling just right. Jen had to grin and bear it, considering it still hurt to be poked in specific places. The doctor also revealed the Polaroid's that he took the day of the surgery, along with some pictures of the bags of fat that were removed from her body.

"The doctor constantly tried to shove the before pictures in my face, and I refused to look. They were far too depressing," she said. "And the bags? So gross. They were full of this orange-red stuff that came out of my body." The amount of fat removed from Jen's body totaled around five pounds.



After: Photo taken on April 27th, 2004

Jen wore a cotton girdle for several months that she was given immediately after surgery in order to assure correct healing. When the actual procedure was taking place, there was a separation between the skin on the stomach and the stomach wall in order to reach the fat inside of it. The purpose of the girdle was press the skin into the wall in order to reattach itself.

"I hated that girdle. I stopped wearing it regularly in March because it made my clothes look funny and I felt as though I didn't need it. In the beginning, if I took it off for more than a few hours I would become incredibly sore. That stopped and the doctor said I could officially stop wearing it in April."

During one of her visits to the doctor, he revealed a very interesting fact about himself.

Jen waited in the examination room until the doctor walked in. She happened to be wearing a shirt with a band name on it. The doctor noticed the shirt and asked what it was.

"I told him that it was a band I liked. He nodded and said, 'Have you ever heard of Dashboard Confessional?' I nodded. He then smiled and said, 'Oh, well, Chris is my nephew. As in Chris Carrabba. My plastic surgeon is Chris Carrabba's uncle."

Dr. Russolillo went on to tell her that he had recently attended Carrabba's wedding and had met "all his little musical friends."

"I was pretty intrigued by that. I call it my brush with fame."

As time progressed, Jen began to dig into her "when I'm thin" clothes, as she referred to them, and began to wear a few of them.

"A few things fit, but I still have a long way to go. But as anyone can see from the before and after pictures, there's a huge difference."

Jen's goal was to stop wearing her hoodies draped over her in order to hide her stomach. Since the surgery, she has overcome her insecurity and feels comfortable enough to put away the hoodie for good.

"Except on cold days of course."

"I go to the gym at least four times a week and have cut down a lot on food intake and drink tons of water. I've slipped a few times with eating junk food, but nothing too serious. I'm so happy with the results that I really don't want to do anything to jeopardize it."

So was the whole surgery experience worth it?

"Yes. I'd do it over again in a second. I know that I wouldn't go in for more surgery of any kind now, but if I had to make the same decisions again, I would. I mean, I know I'm not perfectly skinny with a washboard stomach, but that's not really what I was looking for. I'm finally comfortable with myself and that's enough. I don't give a flying rat's ass what anyone else thinks of my body and that's the important part. Thank goodness for modern medicine, hmm?"

Pete weathers the storm of freshmen

"The Devil's Advocate"
By Pete Norwood
A&E Editor

Well, the year has been an interesting one. I have gone through several vicious gauntlets, and I have come out alive. I have gone through trials and tribulations and despite a shaky and uncertain future, I can look forward to whatever is coming next. Certain lessons must be learned from any situation, and I feel that my best lesson to aid me further is my freshman year of college.

I came into it with delusions of grandeur, which I didn't learn until later were not delusions at all, but rather my hopes and aspirations. I spent the summer here going to classes and doing rigorous course work, coming out with an impressive three-point-something GPA. As the year continued I continually watched as my grades fell, apparently not remembering what they had told us in Urban Education.

I would skip classes and go to parties, and constantly worry about when the next party was or the next social opportunity that I lost track of those "delusions of grandeur" that seemed to keep me on track so efficiently over the summer.

Now upon retrospect, I mismanaged my time and money, leaving me on the verge of failing out of college. All my hopes of writing for this newspaper and for any other are fading away. But I learn from my mistakes, and that is what we must learn to do if we want to get ahead. That is why I will be careful not to lose track of my dreams any more.

Everyone makes mistakes, the point, as an anonymous source says, is to learn from those mistakes. I write this for those of you out there who did as shitty as I did this semester. For those of you who would succumb to the urge to just give up and go home. The good times will always be great and will always get better as long as you balance them with the time you spend for your future.

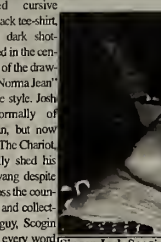
It has been great getting to know everyone on this campus, as I thought it would be as I prepared for when I would become the first person in my family (except my aunt) to go to college at all. Now I will go back to my family and I will tell them about what a great time I had and I'll encourage all my friends to go to school (but please, for Christ's sake not my school). To sum the meaning of my statement up, ladies and gentlemen; don't be a fool, stay in school.

Interested in reviewing any shows? The Voice could send you for free! Contact us at thecampusvoice@hotmail.com for more details!

The Chariot at The Webster Theater

By Emily Engel & David Pageau
Voice Reporters

"Support Southern Rock" is written in bright red cursive against a black tee-shirt, with long, dark shotguns crossed in the center. The top of the drawing reads "Norma Jean" in that same style. Josh Scogin, formally of Norma Jean, but now singing for The Chariot, has not fully shed his southern twang despite touring across the country. A calm and collected sort of guy, Scogin owns up to every word of the old saying "speak softly but carrie a big stick."


Singer Josh Scogin

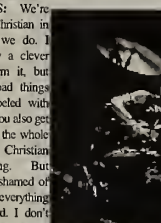
Religion influencing music is old hat when it comes to old time country and gospel music, but the hardcore edge calls to the four boys from Georgia.

DP: Bands like Training for Utopia and Living Sacrifice were the beginning of Christian hardcore. Do you think they are being phased out nowadays? If so, do you think they have the potential to come back?

JS: I think it faded out a while, but I definitely think that it's coming back, slash, it's here. It might be slightly different but I think it's the common practice of the Lord being first in everything that we do. I definitely think that it's coming back in to play, because I know exactly what you're talking about, with bands like Training for Utopia, back in the day it was a plethora of great, solid bands. Now it's kind of like this big gray mass of bands, but I do think that it's coming back slash it's here, and getting bigger and better.

EE: It seems as though Christian music has become more "packaged" and is becoming it's own genre. Do you consider yourself part of that?

JS: We're definitely Christian in everything we do. I don't know a clever way to term it, but there are bad things that get labeled with you when you also get labeled into the whole "You're a Christian band," thing. But we're not ashamed of that, we do everything for the Lord. I don't know why it gets differentiated, I mean, there's not like there's Buddhist bands. We're all just in music, but if that's the classification that comes, that's fine, that's what we do, but sometimes I don't even understand why it's being labeled. I don't mean that in an anti-Christian kind of way, but sometimes I don't even understand where it started. Like, why aren't the Beastie Boys labeled Buddhist rap? We're not going to ever say we're not a Christian band. We have to take the good with the bad. If bad things get labeled on us, hopefully we can prove them wrong.

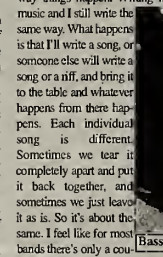

Drummer Mark Nicks

DP: As for The Chariot, how did you form? What's going to be different about The Chariot as opposed to Norma Jean?:

JS: As far as how we formed, I don't even know. Looking back on it, it's a big puzzle that God put together and everything fell in to place. I had the idea and the inspiration to start another band, and I was like, cool, and all about it, but I never went around telling or asking people about it, "Hey, you want to play guitar for us?" It would randomly come up. I'm riding the ride God set for us. But as for how things are different, there's actually a whole lot more similarities. For example, we can't write music that we think the masses are going to take to, we just have to write music that we enjoy listening to ourselves and hopefully kids jump on to that, and I feel like they have. But whether they do or not, you would die trying to please everybody. It's impossible to write music that other people are going to like if you don't even like it. The first goal is just trying to write music that we like, and that was the same goal in Norma Jean. And hopefully people will get something from it and enjoy it in that sense.

EE: Do you find that now there is a different line up it's easier to write songs? What's the process?

JS: It's about the same, really. There are only few differences here and there in the way things happen. Writing music is writing music and I still write the same way. What happens is that I'll write a song, or someone else will write a song or a riff, and bring it to the table and whatever happens from there happens. Each individual song is different. Sometimes we tear it completely apart and put it back together, and sometimes we just leave it as is. So it's about the same. I feel like for most bands there's only a couple ways to write songs, in a sense that only one person writes it all or you all bring something to the table and see what shakes loose. And that's the same scenario with us.


Bassist Josh Beiser

DP: This is kind of a critical question. Most of your song titles are very long, one on your latest album is very long, and I believe is longer than the lyrics in the song. How do you come up with those names?

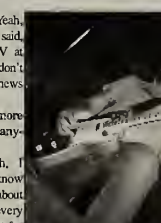
JS: We don't ever purposely try to have long song titles, but I do very, very purposely try to make sure there's meaning to every single one. Sometimes it's the same meaning as the song lyrics, and sometimes it's a whole separate meaning. And the reason behind that is sometimes I feel like this can bless someone one way with the lyrics, and bless someone another way with the title. But in making sure there's meaning for every single song title, they end up being long, but it's never a goal of mine to make sure we have some long title. I mean, a lot of bands have long titles these days.

DP: It seems like the popular thing to do.

JS: Yeah, it kinda bums me out, but I'm still determined to have meaning. I don't know what's going to happen with the next record and that's something I've kind of dealt with. I really don't want long titles, but they have to have meaning and that's what we're aiming to do, as vague or as to the point as the meaning is. I know the song you're talking about, "Someday, In the Event that Mankind Actually Figures Out What it is That This World Revolves Around, Thousands of People are Going to be Shocked and Perplexed to Find Out That it Was Not Them. Sometimes This Includes Me." That's totally to the point I think. It's a goal to make them have meaning. If it's going to be a long title, then so be it.

EE: Being so highly influenced by the Christian religion seems to be the way of The Chariot. Do you dabble into any other social issues, including politics?

JS: I don't know too much about what's going on. We try to stay wise of every situation, but I don't even have a TV at my house. We don't listen to the radio and things like that keep us in the shadow of what's happening sometimes which isn't very wise, but since it is that way I never really dip in to political things too much. I would rather someone tell me "I don't know" than someone just start fighting for something without having information. A lot of the time, and again, it's not that it's a wise thing to do, I don't recommend this, I don't know a lot about what's going on on either side. It's easier for me to just not touch the subject as far as that goes then to just all of a sudden jump on to something, fighting. Just because it's popular doesn't mean it's right. I'm not going to write a song about this without a clue as to what actually happened. Our band does steer clear from that, not because we don't want to offend anyone, but because we're sheltered from that, and we don't get to watch the news.


Gutiarist Keller Harbin

DP: Does that come from being on tour all the time?

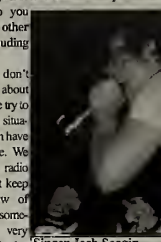
JS: Yeah, from that, and like I said, I don't have a TV at home, and if I did, I don't think I'd watch the news too much.

DP: It's more depressing than anything else.

JS: Yeah, I mean, I do like to know what's going on about everything, like, every area of my life. But for some reason, it's just so hard to keep up with news, and there's a part of me that thinks it's so slanted in one direction, it's like you're not getting the whole truth, so it's hard for me to keep abreast of the situation.

EE: The Chariot is touring all over the United States. Do you find that some areas of the country take better to your music than others?

JS: I think so. I don't know if they "take better" to certain things, or if it's just the amount of people in certain areas, or if it's just up here in northeast America. This show is probably going to be by far the biggest show we'll play up here. It's a hard time to bring kids out to these shows for some reason. Obviously down south, you can get a lot of kids, but that's our home territory, but even out west, we bring a lot of kids out and they seem to enjoy it. But up here, which we've been to two or three times more than out west, it seems to be harder because it's so congested up here, there's always shows happening.


Singer Josh Scogin

DP: We just had Metal & Hardcore Fest and every metal and hardcore band you can think of was there. There are always shows going on. Like you said before, that gray area. One day there's a band, and the next they're gone and you don't hear about them anymore.

JS: Yeah, so I don't know if they take to the music differently, or if it's just the place in which they live, but I know that up here we always have a tough time trying to get people to come out. Then again, we've only toured a handful of times, so we're still new at this as far as the band is concerned. But it seems that out west that there's bigger excitement, and of course, down south, it doesn't really count because that's our home.

EE: What do you want people to walk away with after a show by The Chariot?

JS: Hopefully just a blessed time, hopefully they walk away with more than just a show. We put our hearts into these shows. Our set is very nonchalant and very easy going, and even though we're on a stage, we try to make it feel like we're all just hanging out. I mean, there's nothing special about us, we just love to write music and hopefully people enjoy it, but a lot of times people get this false sense of whatever about bands, but we're just five kids from Douglasville [Georgia]. It might be heavy music and we do take it seriously to an extent, but as far as our music, as far as on stage, we have a good time. We're not tough dudes. Hopefully they'll all walk away feeling like they just hung out with us and had a good time with us.

DP: And here's the famous question. Who is your favorite Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and why?

JS: Dude, I'm soooo in to the Ninja Turtles. Actually, I don't know if "in to them" is the right term, but I'm more inspired slash can relate with Raphael. It seems like he takes care of business but he's always struggling with something, you know? Michelangelo is the party guy, can't really relate with him,. then Donatello is the whiz, and Leonardo's the leader. Raphael takes care of business, he knows when the job needs to get done, but at the same time I feel like he's not appreciated. Not that I feel like that! But when I used to watch him as a kid, on a whole other level, I thought that his itty-bitty weapons, his tsais, that could really do nothing, but he still kicked butt with them and I thought that was pretty awesome as opposed to Leonardo having those swords and Donatello having a huge stick. That's pretty deep for this type of question.

DP: Those are probably the best reasons I've heard thus far.

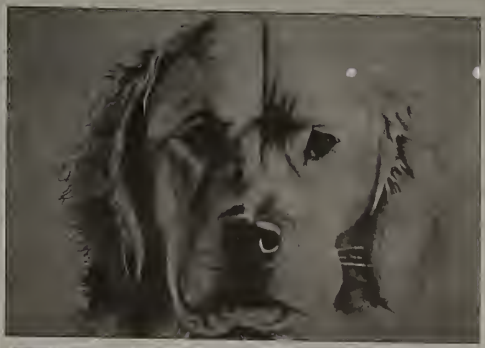
JS: You don't understand dude, I thought that show was awesome. I could relate … Dude. Yeah. I remember my dad took us the day the movie opened and as soon as it was over, we went straight to a little league baseball game. Dude, I don't even know if I played baseball that night, I was so in the Ninja Turtle ruling, just hanging out, I thought it was so awesome. And then part two I liked.

DP: Secret of the Ooze!

JS: So awesome. So yeah, you asked me a good question.

- photos by Emily Engel & David Pageau

Arno Maris Art Exposition



Check out the student work on display at the Arno Maris Gallery while you can.

The Voice's own Mike Coughlin took first place with the photo featured below. He also took all of these photos. Thanks Mike.

Chingy not nearly as cool as his blingy

BY LISANDRA BILLINGS
NEWS EDITOR

NEW HAVEN, CT – College students stood unenthusiastically outside of the gym at the University of New Haven. The three lines, divided according to sex as well as those students with visiting guests, led ominously to student security guards holding metal detectors that probed up and down your legs searching for anything that resembled a deadly assault weapon.

After being everything short of strip searched, we were herded into the gym where we pushed and shoved one another unnecessarily in order to get closer to the small stage. We waited with anticipation for the first of three acts, talking amongst ourselves, until it happened. The lights dim, the crowd went silent and out of the darkness came seven middle-aged men ready to rock us the cool, hard-hitting sounds of Billy Joel.

Unfortunately, or perhaps luckily, this was not the Billy Joel, but Big Shot, a Billy Joel cover band all the way from the Big Apple. Complete with drummer Sal DeVitto, the real live brother of Liberty DeVitto who really and truly played for Mr. Joel, Big Shot played absolutely nothing that I, nor anyone else in that gym, could sing along to.

After playing about a 30 minutes worth of music I'm sure my mother would have loved to hear, Big Shot left the stage leaving us hungry for some more modern day tunes, or at least the odd familiarity of We Didn't Start the Fire or Piano Man. When the next band, The Starting Line, takes the stage they bring with them the former as well as a pretty good sound.

-File Photo

Playing many unfamiliar tracks from their debut album, *Say It Like You Mean It*, The Starting Line differed from Big Shot in that, though we still didn't know the lyrics to their songs, we wanted to learn them. As the band ended their set, many students filed out while the security guards filed in and took their place around the stage.

Since the gym was now only half full, the remaining spectators took full advantage and made our way closer to the stage. As the stage crew cleared out the drum sets, guitars, keyboards and microphone stands a single turn-table was erected in the center of the stage. When the stage was finally devoid of all musical instruments, and soon to be musical talent, the third and final act graced us with his presence.

Guarded closely by three enormous body guards, the rapper, known to fans as Chingy, moved across the stage, shouting out words we could barely hear due to the bass of the excessive speakers placed at each end of the stage. Though the beats were good, his overall performance was bland due to the boring stage luster and overall lack of entertainment. Watching a small man struggling to hold up his baggy jeans walking back and forth across the stage under the weight of his huge gold necklace wasn't all that appealing.

What was perhaps most frustrating about the mediocre rapper was that he appeared to believe he was the hottest act since Tupac. According to my source, a friend who attends the school and takes part in setting up for the show, it was Chingy who requested the hand held metal detectors and rumor has it that he never goes anywhere without his guards.

I'd like to tell you how the concert ended, but in all honesty I can't. After 20 minutes of Chingy I had had enough. I walked out at about the same time he began throwing his water bottle out into the crowd as though thousands of screaming girls were going to fight in order to get their hands on something his mouth was on.

For the record, the bottle hit the ground next to my feet and after waiting to see if anyone was going to dive for it (which no one did), I picked it up and deposited it in the trash on my way out.

It's time to get excited! Finally, some real muscle for the competition

BY STEVE BRUSO
VOICE REPORTER

We've all seen it before. Whether you're walking down Western Ave, driving in Springfield, or going to a car show, there they are. You hear an obnoxious buzzing, reminiscent of a weed-whacker gone insane, and then you see it—a car that sounds as ridiculous as it looks. A spoiler the size of Texas—probably robbed off of a 747 aircraft—has been grafted onto the vehicle, like the assorted body parts on the monster, Frankenstein. A Hot Wheels-esque paintjob, complete with tacky graphics and plastered with miscellaneous logos, including the brand of the vehicle—as if the driver has somehow forgotten what kind of car they drive—completes this Picasso of a car.

The recent trend in the car world is sickening to say the least. It's been going on for a few years, the disease being quarantined in California. Then with the release of The Fast and the Furious, the contagion took root, and spread throughout America.

Well folks, finally, the glimmer of hope arrives in the form of a vaccine for this sickness. Companies like Ford, Pontiac, Dodge, and Chevrolet are producing ballsy muscle-cars to stamp out the wimpy competition. That's right. Wimpy. If you drive one of the aforementioned ridiculous cars, listen up. I can acknowledge that technology has come a long way, especially for car production. Getting 200 horsepower out of a 4-cyllinder engine—where before companies were lucky to get 100 out of it—is an impressive accomplishment. This does not mean, however, that you have a race car, or even a fast car. Some people don't seem to understand this concept. They don't seem to understand that whatever you do to a four-cyllinder engine, you can do to an eight- and get double the results.

Smokey Yunick said that if you want big power, there is no substitute for cubic inches (Here's the part where you should stop reading if you think you're a car person with one of those Hot Wheels cars and you don't know who Smokey Yunick is).

It would seem like the aforementioned car companies are listening to ol' Smokey's advice, and are producing a welcome sigh of relief from performance enthusiasts by bringing back muscle cars. Thank God.

Ford released a newly-designed Mustang in 2005, hailing back to the "fastback" Mustangs from the 60's and 70's. This pony boasts 300 horsepower to start with. Ford has claimed this to be the fastest mainstream-production Mustang yet, and next year, the rewards get even sweeter. In 2006-2007, Ford will be bringing back the Shelby GT 500 with the new Mustang bodystyle. This Shelby's got a supercharged 5.4L V8 loaded with 450 horsepower.

Pontiac brought back the GTO in 2003-2004, starting with some brute strength from its 350 horsepower 5.7L V8, but this only whets the appetite. In 2005, they injected this engine with steroids: the GTO now comes with the massive 6L V8 with 400 horsepower, and they added an aggressive-looking hood scoop to complete the look.

With the success of the GTO, Dodge is jumping in on the action as well. In 2006, the Charger will be brought back into production, starting with a mean 340 horsepower coming from its 5.7L Hemi V8. And that's just the base model. As if this weren't enough to get the tires burning, the SRT8 model features a 6.1L Hemi V8 with a blistering 425 horsepower.

Chevrolet has always had the Corvette in production, and the 2005 models are nothing to sneer at, with 400 horsepower coming from its 6L V8. Like Ford, Pontiac, and Dodge, Chevrolet is also spicing things up in 2006, as the Corvette will receive a 500 horsepower 7L engine. Don't bother reading that twice, it said what you thought it said the first time you read it: 500 horsepower.

So have fun driving your Civic, Eclipse, or Jetta with its motley trappings, insanely oversized spoilers, and spinning rims, but try not to call attention to yourself. I wouldn't if I had a car like yours. And don't be surprised when the competition gets tougher next year. I'm just trying to save you some money and embarrassment in wasted bets. Leave the real toys to the big boys.

Muscle bound!

-File Photo

-File Photo

-File Photo

-File Photo

From top to bottom: the 2005 Pontiac GTO; 2005 Shelby GT 500; 2005 Corvette Z06; and the 2005 Dodge Charger.

Men's Track & Field Defends Championships

By Mickey Curtis

In another dominating performance, the Westfield State men's track and field team won its ninth straight Massachusetts State Athletics Conference (MASCAC) championship and its 22nd in the past 23 years on Sunday, May 1, at UMass Dartmouth's new facility.

The Owls also extended their impressive streak in the New England Alliance championships, which were held in conjunction with the MASCAC meet. The 10-team Alliance meet, which includes colleges from the MASCAC and Little East Conference, began nine years ago and Westfield State has won all nine championships.

Westfield only placed first in three of the 20 events in the Alliance meet, but its depth and confidence again paid off. Claiming the only individual titles were a pair of Athol natives: senior standout Peter King in the shot put and discus and junior Shawn McCorquodale with a personal best of 22-10 in the long jump.

The Owls accumulated 157.5 points in the Alliance meet, followed by Eastern Connecticut (131), UMass Dartmouth (97) and Southern Maine (93.5).

In the MASCAC meet, the Owls racked up 261 points, followed by Fitchburg State (125) and Worcester State (101).

The last time the Owls lost the MASCAC meet was in 1996 when it was edged by Bridgewater State. In that meet, standout Ryan Schmitt suffered a leg injury early in the meet that probably cost the Owls the championship. Nevertheless, their run of championships is an eye opener.

"I was pleased again with our performances," said veteran coach Sean O'Brien. "The kids know the tradition we have here and they work hard to perform well in the championship meets."

This was the year the Owls won by dominating the field events. They totaled more than half of their MASCAC points (150) in seven field events. The most dominating effort was in the shot put where they took the top five places.

King took the shot and discus crowns, placed second in the hammer throw and fifth in the javelin.

Westfield State placed first in nine of the 20 MASCAC events. The big surprise for the Owls was the performance of first-year performer Jacques Moret, who graduated from Westfield Vocational High School, which does not field a track team.

Moret claimed MASCAC crowns in the 200 (23.44) and 400 (50.93) meter dashes and was a member of the winning 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay squads. He also finished fourth in the 100 meter dash.

Two Westfield High School graduates – John Messer and Drew Soltysiak – also performed well. Messer won the 800 meter run in 2:02.52 and Soltysiak placed second in the javelin (163-8) behind teammate Dave Bergeron (180-8).

Members of the Westfield State men's track and field team take their customary victory lap after capturing the Mass. State Conference and New England Alliance Conference championships on May 1 at UMass Dartmouth.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

MASCAC Men's Results

MASCAC Championships
Men's Outdoor Track and Field
Sunday, May 1, 2005

TEAM SCORING: 1. WESTFIELD STATE 261; 2. Fitchburg State 125; 3. Worcester State 101.4. Bridgewater State 81; 5. Salem State 36.

FIRST: Jacques Moret, 200, 23.44; Jaques Moret, 400, 50.93; John Messer, 800, 2:02.52; 4 x 100 Relay (Craig Skribiski, Eric Kelly, Ben Butterfield, Jacques Moret), 43.95; 4 x 400 relay (Jacques Moret, Bill Magdalensky, Eric Kelly, Robbie Crossman), 3:28.81; Shawn McCorquodale, long jump, 22-10; Peter King, shot put, 46-6.75; Peter King, discus, 138-10; Dave Bergeron, javelin, 180-8.

SECOND: Robbie Crossman, 400, 52.03; Sean Kavanagh, 400 hurdles, 58.21; David Richardson, high jump,6-3.5; Matt Shannon, long jump, 21-9.5; Chris Flynn, triple jump, 41-8; Rob Byrne, shot put, 43-7; Peter King, hammer throw, 137-4; Drew Sottysiak, javelin, 163-8.

THIRD: Eric Kelly, 100, 11.61; Matt Shannon, 200, 23.54; Ben Butterfield, 400, 53.2; Ron Ricciarelli, 400 hurdles, 58.37; Andy Strniste, 3000 steeplechase, 11:25.67; Sean Marino, high jump, 5-11; Matt Dissell, shot put, 42-6; Peter King, discus, 122-6; Stan P'au, hammer throw, 122-11; Shawn McCorquodale, javelin, 162-1.

FOURTH: Ben Butterfield, 200, 23.64; Andy Messer, 1500, 4:19.88; Jacques Moret, 100, 12.27; Erik Kelly, 110 hurdles, 16.33; Eric Kelly, 400 hurdles, 1:00.04; Matt Shannon, high jump, 5-9; Dave Bergerson, triple jump, 40-7.5; Chris Jewell, shot put, 39-11.25; Rob Byrne, discus, 114-7.

FIFTH: John Krzystofik, 10,000, 38:47; Ron Ricciarelli, 110 hurdles, 16.59; Sten P'au, shot put, 39-7.25; Matt Dissell, discus, 111-3; Peter King, javelin, 143-3.

SIXTH: Andy Messer, 5000, 17:14.04; Chris Jewell, hammer throw, 94-2.

The Westfield State women's track and field team is all smiles after winning its eighth straight Mass. State Conference championship.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

Women Win 8th Straight Title

The Westfield State women's track and field team upped its streak to eight straight by winning the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference (MASCAC) championship on Sunday, May 1, at UMass Dartmouth.

Led by another brilliant effort by senior standout Tessa Donoghue, the Owls compiled 200 points to finish ahead of a vastly improved Worcester State squad (166 points).

The 10-team New England Alliance championship was held in conjunction with the MASCAC meet, and Westfield placed second in the Alliance for its highest finish in five years. Southern Maine ran away with the Alliance crown (259.5 points) followed by Westfield (114) and Keene State (87).

"I was pleasantly surprised with placing second in the Alliance meet," said coach Sean O'Brien. "I thought the MASCAC meet would be a little closer but we had some good performances."

Donoghue one upped herself this year in the MASCAC meet by placing first in six individual events and anchoring the winning 4 x 100 relay squad. Last season she won five individual crowns.

The Springfield Cathedral graduate won the 100, long jump, triple jump and high jump in both the MASCAC and Alliance meets. The 4 x 100 relay of Katelyn Kervin, Kristin Pellegrinelli, CC Costello and Donoghue also placed first in both meets. Donoghue also won the MASCAC crowns in the 100 hurdles and 400 hurdles.

Donoghue took one jump in the triple jump and shattered the meet record with an effort of 38-10.25. Two days earlier, she set a school record in the triple jump with an sensational leap of 40-2 at the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia..

The Owls took first in 12 events in the MASCAC meet. Caitlin Bates and Heather Wenninger defended their conference crowns in the 10,000 and 5,000 meter runs, respectively. Also finishing first were Alison Wesolowski (steeplechase), senior Erin Coburn (hammer throw) and Nicole Varteresian (discus). Wenninger and Wesolowski also won individual titles in the Alliance meet.

Westfield only had one second place in the MASCAC meet (Marissa Blume in the 1500) but it picked up some key points in the third thru six slots.

Blume was third in the 800 meter run. Junior captain CC Costello placed in seven of the nine events in which she competed. She was a member of the winning relay, third in the javelin and 400 hurdles, fourth in the hurdles and long jump, and fifth in the triple jump and hammer throw.

Katelyn Kervin ran on the winning relay, placed third in the long jump and finished fifth in the 100, 400 and high jump.

Tessa Donoghue takes off after receiving the baton from CC Costello in the 4 x 100 relay. Donoghue anchored the winning relay team and also won six individual events to lead Westfield State to its eighth straight MASCAC crown. Costello earned points in seven of the nine events in which she competed. Two days prior to the conference championships, Donoghue set a school record with a sensational leap of 40 feet, 2 inches in the triple jump at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia.
Photo By Mickey Curtis

MASCAC Championships
Women's Track and Field
Sunday, May 1, 2005

TEAM SCORING: 1. WESTFIELD STATE 200; 2. Worcester State 166; 3. Bridgewater State 111; 4. Fitchburg State 60; 5. Salem State 44.

FIRST: Tessa Donoghue, 100, 12.6; Heather Wenninger, 5000, 19:47.59; Caitlin Bates, 10,000, 45:13.70; Tessa Donoghue, 100 hurdles, 16.58; Tessa Donoghue, 400 hurdles, 1:08.73; Alison Wesolowski, 3000 steeplechase, 13:04.76; 4 x 100 Relay (Katelyn Kervin, Kristin Pellegrinelli, CC Costello, Tessa Donoghue), 51.84; Tessa Donoghue, high jump, 5-1; Tessa Donoghue, long jump, 17-9; Tessa Donoghue, triple jump, 38-10.25; Nicole Varteresian, discus, 100-2; Erin Coburn, hammer, 123-8.

SECOND: Marissa Blume, 1500, 5:24.21.

THIRD: Marissa Blume, 800, 2:39.68; Heather Wenninger, 1500, 5:28.96; Kristen Bodner, 5000, 21:31.56; CC Costello, 400 hurdles, 1:15.23; 4 x 400 Relay (Lindsey Nowlan, Melissa Joyce, Marissa Blume, Kristin Pellegrinelli), 4:48.93; Katelyn Kervin, long jump, 14-11.5; CC Costello, javelin, 109-6.

FOURTH: CC Costello, 100 hurdles, 17.97; CC Costello, long jump, 14-10.

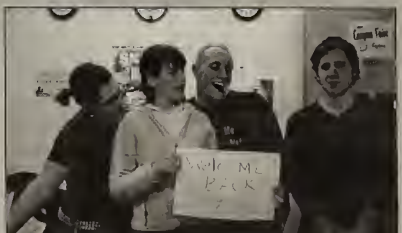
FIFTH: Katelyn Kervin, 100, 13.73; Katelyn Kervin, 400, 1:08.68; Lindsey Nowlan, 800, 2:42.54; Kristen Bodner, 1500, 5:43.50; Jenn Davis, 100 hurdles, 18.69; Kristin Pellegrinelli, 400 hurdles, 1:22.11; Katelyn Kervin, high jump, 4-4; CC Costello, triple jump, 32-5.75; Timily Henrickson, shot put, 30-10.5; CC Costello, hammer throw, 96-8.

SIXTH: Melissa Joyce, 400, 1:10.24; Alison Wesolowski, 1500, 5:43.50.

-Photos and collage by Mike Coughlin

A Poem for Mike Coughlin
His name is Mike
Although some call him Ike
He has eyes like the deep blue sea
And is always nice to me
Always with a camera in hand
Beside you he will forever stand.
We love you Mike!
-K4LA

THE VOICE: A YEAR TO REMEMBER



Until next year...

A Pem for Mike Coughlin
His name is Mike
Although some call him Ike
He has eyes like the deep blue sea
And is always nice to me
Always with acamera in hand
Beside you he will forever stand.
We love you Mike!
-K4LA

My name is Tray Chalmers. I am looking for love. Peope say I look like Clay Aiken. I love pop and R&B music. I need a girl that will take control in a relationship. Facebook me!!

I'm Dan McWilliams, I'm looking for a single lady to hang out with maybe more I think all girls are beautiful in their own ways to don't hesitate to say "Hi" or hit me up on facebook.

Mon 5/9	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30am-1:20pm & 6:30-9:45pm	Monday Evening Jazz - 7pm - EML	A Cappella Performance - 7:30pm - DA
Tue 5/10	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15a-12:30p & 6:30-9:45pm	SGA Meeting - Ely Basement - 5:30p	
Wed 5/11	Rec Swim - 11:30a-1:20p - Ely Pool Catholic Mass - INT - 4:30p	CAB Meeting - SGA Room - 5pm	Student Bible Study - Interfaith Rm. - 7pm
Thurs 5/12	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:15-12:30 & 6:30-8:30pm	STUDY FOR FINALS!	KEEP STUDYING!
Fri 5/13	Rec Swim - Ely Pool - 11:30-1:20p	HOPE YOU'RE STILL STUDYING!	STUDY ALL WEEKEND!
Sat 5/14	Sabbath Services - INT - 9:30am-12:30pm Saturday Night Live - EML -	**Sun 5/15**	Catholic Mass - Sav. Aud. A - Noon & 4pm Lap Swim - Ely Pool - 4:30-6:30pm

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No Experience Necessary! - All Majors Welcome!

Location Key

AF - Alumni Field
DA - Dever Auditorium
EML - Ely Main Lounge
INT - Interfaith
SBH - Scanlon Banquet Hall
SLR - Scanlon Living Room
TWR - Third World Room
WOOD - Woodward Center

Attention: Clubs, Res Halls, and other Campus Groups

The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement at Ely 248

Please allow 10 days to ensure publication.

TheVoice

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Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi addresses women s rights in Middle East
pg. 1

Last Issue
Have a good summer

Photo by: Mike Coughlin

National Student Exchange affords WSC students oppurtunity and adventure
pg. 1

Muscle cars are hitting the streets again
pg.